



Ways to help your child with reading at home

Here are some ideas of questions that you might ask your child when discuss their reading book at home. Please do not feel that you need to ask every question each time that you read. Choose a selection that is the most appropriate to the book that your child has read. The older your child gets the more complex the questioning should become.

Fiction (story books)

Prediction	Before opening the book, what does the front cover and blurb tell you about what might happen in the book? Continue to predict as moving through the book. Do your predictions change as you read on?
Characters	Who are the characters in the book? Who was the main character? What was the character like? (including looks and personality) Did the character change? Were they good or bad? Why did the characters behave in the way they did? How does the author make you feel about the character?
Settings	Where did the story take place? Did the setting change? Can you describe the setting? Have you read any other stories with a similar setting?
Events	Can you use the pictures and your own words to retell the story? Describe the main events in the story? Can you tell me the beginning middle and end?
Cause and effect	What happened to good characters? Why? What happened to the bad characters? Why? Can a good character turn bad? Can a bad character turn good?
Moral	Is there a moral? Can you think of an everyday life example? What have you learnt from this story?
Developing book preferences	Did you like the story? Why? What was your favourite part? Why? What was your least favourite part? Why? Would you recommend the book to a friend?

Non-fiction (information books)

Discuss the layout of the book including the contents, glossary, index, features (headings, subheadings, photographs, diagrams, labels and captions)

Ask questions such as:

- What was this book about?
- Tell me something you found out from the book.
- Give me 3 facts from the text
- Using the index, can you find _____?
- Using the contents, what is on page _____?
- Can you find a caption/heading/label/photograph?

Final messages

Please remember:

- Reading at home is for practice and consolidation of skills taught at school.
- Try to read at home every night and choose a selection of the ideas below to discuss the book.
- Understanding what you have read and discussing the book is just as important as reading the words
- Sign the reading record after reading with your child and ensure that they have their reading packet in school each day.

The most important thing is for you and your child to both enjoy reading together. Have 5-10 minutes a day, of quality, uninterrupted time to promote a love of reading.

Happy Reading!



"Inspiring children to read is one of the greatest gifts you can give them" - Julia Donaldson.