



Reading with Your Child at Home – A Reading Guide for Parents

Please read the following information carefully regarding your child's reading books that they bring home to read with you:

If your child brings home a picture book:



Your child is encouraged to retell the story in their own words, this will allow them to talk about their own first-hand experiences, develop their imagination and develop their oracy skills. If your child is struggling, encourage your child to tell you what they can see happening in the pictures. You could also retell the story for them to begin with, showing them how to use the pictures to make up a plot. The pictures may show a child, visiting a zoo or museum, having a birthday party or going to one and spending time with family and friends.

If your child brings home a book with CVC words:



Your child will bring home two books. Your child is encouraged to use their sounds to 'segment' the word (sound out each letter sound) and then 'blend' the sounds together to say the word. Your child will see the word first and then the picture on the other side. At first you may need to support your child with segmenting and blending the word until they master this skill. Learning to blend can take a long time- please don't be discouraged if your child is able to segment the words correctly but unable to blend them to read. It takes lots and lots of practise!



If your child brings home a Ditty Book:

Your child will bring home two books. These are called RWI Ditty books. They will bring home a Ditty book and a corresponding reading book. Your child is encouraged to use their sounds to read words and sentences. They will 'segment' the word (sound out each letter sound) and then 'blend' the sounds together to say the word. At first, you may need to support your child with segmenting and blending the word until they get used to the books they are given. You will also see words in 'red' in the reading books. These are words that cannot be sounded out. Your child needs to learn how to read these as sight words. We practise these at school every day and it would be beneficial if you go over these words at every opportunity at home. The sounds your child is currently concentrating on are on the front cover of the Ditty book.

Reading Record books:

Along with your child's reading book/s, they will receive a Reading Record Book. Your child's teacher will write the date, title of book and a comment. When an adult at home reads with your child, it would be very useful if they could write a comment about their child's reading. This is a great way to share and communicate with your child's class teacher.



Below is a glossary of words and what they mean:

Word	What Does It Mean?
blend	Saying the individual sounds that make up a word and then merging or blending the sounds together to say the word – used when reading.
consonant	Most letters of the alphabet (excluding the vowels: a,e,i,o,u).
CVC words	<p>Abbreviation used for consonant-vowel-consonant words, used to describe the order of sounds. Some examples of CVC words are: cat, pen, top, chat (because ch makes one sound).</p> <p>Other similar abbreviations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VC words e.g. on, is, it.• CCVC words e.g. trap and black.• CVCC words e.g. milk and fast.
digraph	<p>Two letters which together make one sound e.g. ee, oa, ea, ch, ay.</p> <p>There are different types of digraph:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vowel digraph: a digraph in which at least one of the letters is a vowel, for example; boat or day.• Consonant digraph: two consonants which can go together, for example shop or thin.• Split digraph (previously called magic e): two letters, which work as a pair to make one sound, but are separated within the word e.g. a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e. For example cake or pine.
grapheme	Written letters or a group of letters which represent one single sound (phoneme) e.g. a, l, sh, air, ck.

Word	What Does It Mean?
segment	<p>This is the opposite of blending (see above). Splitting a word up into individual sounds – used when spelling and writing.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid blue; background-color: #007bff; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Top Tip! Play word games with your child that encourage them to build words and recognise individual sounds in words e.g. word jigsaw puzzles, Hangman style games, I-Spy and making collections of objects that contain the same letter sounds at either the beginning, middle or end.</p> </div>
tricky words	<p>Words that are difficult to sound out e.g. said, the, because.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid blue; background-color: #007bff; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Top Tip! Have some tricky word flashcards around and use them to practise reading and word recognition.</p> </div>
trigraph	<p>Three letters which go together make one sound e.g. ear, air, igh, dge, tch.</p>
vowel	<p>The letters a, e, i, o, u.</p>


These are some useful questions you might want to ask your child when reading their books at home:

Before reading the book:	During the reading of the book:	After reading the book:
<p>Encourage the child to handle the book and hold it the correct way around.</p> <p>Can you find the front cover?</p> <p>What can you see on the front cover?</p> <p>What might this book be about?</p> <p>Can you find/point to the title?</p> <p>What might happen in the story?</p>	<p>Encourage the child to talk about the pictures and what is happening in the story. They may also like to turn the pages, join in with repeated words and phrases, and listen to identify any words that rhyme.</p> <p>What is happening on this page?</p> <p>What might happen next?</p> <p>What does this word mean?</p> <p>Do you like ...?</p> <p>What might happen at the end of the story?</p> <p>Can you turn to the next page?</p>	<p>Encourage the child to talk about what happened in the book.</p> <p>What happened in the story?</p> <p>What happened to this character?</p> <p>What did you find out?</p> <p>Did you like this book? Why?</p> <p>What was your favourite part?</p> <p>Who was your favourite character?</p>


What is the story about?

A girl with dark hair and a red bow is sitting on the floor, reading a blue book. There are several stacks of books around her.

Is this fiction or non-fiction?

A boy with orange hair is sitting at a desk, looking thoughtful. Above his head are two thought bubbles: one containing a butterfly and the other containing a bird.


Who is telling the story?

A colorful tent is set up on a red rug in a room. There are some items on the floor around the tent.


What characters are in the story?

A group of characters including a girl in a red dress, a boy in a green shirt, and a woman in a black dress and hat.

Describe the setting of this story.

A tall stack of colorful books in various colors like red, blue, green, and purple.

Retell this story using the key points.

A boy is sitting on a stack of books, reading a book. There are more stacks of books around him.

What type of text are you reading?

A girl is sitting on the floor, reading a book. There are other books scattered around her.

Why are you reading this text?

A girl is sitting on a yellow beanbag chair, reading a book.

It is really important to read with your child every day!

