

EARLY READING WORKSHOP

How does your child learn to read?

These are the strategies that your child will use to learn to read:

- Phonics – knowing the letter sounds, individual and multiple letter sounds
- Word recognition – high frequency and tricky words, you just have to know them you can't work them out using phonic skills
- Context clues – using what they have already read and the pictures to work out what the words say

Why do we give children books without words to begin with?

To help your children to develop the skills necessary to read:

- Holding the book the right way up
- Starting at the beginning and turning the pages
- Understanding that a book conveys a message, either a story or information
- Looking at pictures to get an idea of stories and what is happening in them, this will help with working out words later on

There are two skills which are essential to the successful teaching of reading:

1. Phonics and word recognition skills; phoneme awareness and phonics teaching, the repetition and teaching of high frequency and tricky words.
2. Language comprehension; talking with children, reading to children and teaching comprehension strategies.

PHONICS

Phonics is now taught in 6 distinct phases as set out in the Letters and Sounds document as a result of the 'Rose Review'. Phonics is:

- the skills of segmenting and blending letter sounds to read and spell words.
- The knowledge of the alphabetic code

We teach phonics by following the Letters and Sounds program produced by the DfE. This is supported by the use of Jolly Phonics and Educationcity. The letters are taught in a set order, not alphabetically. As each letter is taught we look at the name of the letter, the sound it makes, the action to go with that sound, the capital and the lower case letter. As we develop

our knowledge of letter sounds we use them to make words, eg. once the children know s,a,t,p,i and n they can make as, at, sat, pat, tap, sap, it, is, pit, sit, tip, sip.

At the same time as learning the letter names and sounds we start to learn the high frequency and tricky words, eg. I, the, no, go.

How do we teach reading? When do we teach reading?

We teach reading through:

- Daily Letters and Sounds sessions
- Individual reading
- Shared reading, as a whole class or in small groups
- Guided reading, a small group of children reading the same book, which is appropriate to their ability.
- Having a word rich environment within the classroom.

How can you encourage your child to read?

- By reading to them and with them
- Encouraging them to hold the book and turn the pages whether it's you reading or them.
- Making time to read together.
- Pointing out words, labels, signs as you are driving along or out shopping
- Reading books they choose not just books from school.
- Making bingo, matching games
- Cutting out words from magazines and newspapers

Some questions you may use when your child is reading to you:

Do you like this book; why?

Who is your favourite character?

Tell me about a character in the book.

Which words tell you what the character is like?

How would you feel?

What do you think will happen next?

What would you do?

What have you learned about in your book?

What can you tell me about...?

What to do if your child is stuck:

Use phonics first. What sound does the word begin with? Can you say the sounds in the word? Blend them together.

Read to the end of the sentence. What would make sense?

What is the story about –what might fit here? Does it sound right?

Look at the picture. Does it help?

Points to remember:

- Do not correct every mistake
- Don't expect them to read every word, they may not have the skills they need to read that word yet. Share the reading.
- If you have any concerns come and see me.
- Children's reading sometimes plateaus, they may not progress consistently.

Some websites you may find useful for you and your child.

www.lettersandsounds.com

www.ict.games.co.uk

www.nationalstrategies.gov.uk