

Guidance for Adults Hearing Children Read at Home

At South Hiendley, Junior, Infant and Early Years School, we believe that supporting children to learn to read is very much a partnership between home and school. This booklet has been designed by Mrs. Whelan, our English Subject Leader, to provide ideas for how parents can help their children when reading. We hope you will find it both interesting and helpful. If, after reading the booklet, you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Learning to read is a complex process and children learn to read in different ways. Some children can be heavily dependent on phonics and sound out the letters in words, gradually learning to blend these sounds. Some children rely on picture cues, and this helps to give them confidence when reading the text. Our aim is to help children to become fluent readers who read with expression and good understanding. But, most of all, we endeavour to develop a love of reading by providing the children with a wealth of opportunities for reading both at school and at home.

Children in our school get many reading opportunities through individual, shared and guided activities. However, amongst the most valuable reading times are those that they share with you at home when you read to them and they read to you. With that in mind, we hope you will find the following useful in supporting you in the work you do with your children.

Try to find a quiet time when you can snuggle up or sit with your child without distractions.

Do not worry if your child loses concentration after what seems a short time; it is better to have up to 20 minutes quality reading time, than none at all.

At the start of the reading session, ask them to retell the story up to the last page read.

Discuss the story, or pages read, with them.

Test their understanding of the story by asking questions. *Why did he say that? How do we know she is angry? What do you think will happen next?*

Fill in their reading record, indicating pages covered. *If the record is not filled in we will assume that no reading has taken place.*

Reading at home does not always have to be from the school scheme books or the child's school library book. Please encourage them to read texts from other sources e.g. local library book; a book they have at home; newspaper articles; fliers; comics; cereal packets etc. Almost *anything* will do as long as they are meeting the printed word.

PLEASE REMEMBER!

Going up through the reading schemes' bands is NOT a race!

It is normal for a child to be on one band for some time, just as it is also possible for another child to progress at a quicker pace. Children rarely go up more than one or two bands in any one year group. Therefore, do not compare your child to others in school and, likewise, to their own brothers and sisters.

Books will be changed at the discretion of an adult in school, and only when it is obvious that the child is reading confidently, competently and with a full understanding of what is being read.

All decisions made by the staff are made in each individual child's own interest.