

Praise

It is important to tell your child that they did well so that they can do it again and have confidence in their abilities. Lots of children find reading difficult so **'bigging up'** their efforts and achievements will help them have a positive attitude towards their reading.

You may say things like:

- 'I like the way you are looking at the first letter sound to help you.'
- 'I like the way you are looking at the picture to help you.'
- 'I like the way you put that mistake right without my help.'

At school we never say 'No' or 'That's not right'. Instead we say:

- You said ..., does that sound right?' Or
- 'Does that look right?'

Questions and prompts

During / after reading your child should be prepared to answer questions about the main characters in the story AND speculate about events in the story.

You may ask questions such as:

- Do you think...?
- Why do you think...?
- What would you do if...?
- What has happened so far?
- Why did the character say that?
- How do you think the character is feeling?
- What do you think ... means?
- What do you think might happen next?
- Where can you find that information on the page?

Your child should be prepared to relate the events in a story to themselves, for example if in the story the child gets caught out in the rain without a coat on, you could ask your child:

- How would you feel if you got caught in the rain?
- How would you feel if you went in a time machine and travelled to prehistoric times?

You can make any of your own questions up related to the story or text you are reading.

De Lacy Primary School



Supporting Reading at home

A guide for parents

Reading at home

Reading at home is a fantastic way of supporting your child's learning. Discussing your favourite books and providing meaningful and independent reading opportunities outside of the classroom can foster a lifelong love of reading. Reading with your child at home is a vital part of helping them to make continued progress, whatever age and ability they are currently at.

Through reading and hearing stories, children are exposed to a wide range of words. This helps them to build their own vocabulary and improve their understanding when they listen, which is vital as they start to read. It's important for them to understand how stories work too. Even if your child doesn't understand every word, they'll hear new sounds, words and phrases which they can then try out, copying what they have heard.

This leaflet aims to provide parents and carers with practical advice for supporting your child's reading skills during their time at De Lacy Primary school. The school is committed to improving core Literacy skills and believes partnership between school and home is crucial for improving the outcomes of our pupils.

Starting to Read

- Choose a good time for both of you to read.
- Sit in a quiet place. Most people enjoy reading in a calm and quiet environment – try to avoid distractions such as the TV.
- Sit together so that you can both see the book. ☑ Let your child hold the book and turn the pages.
- Enjoy reading together and make it fun. If your child finds reading fun and enjoyable, then they are much more likely to become engaged and learn.

Book Introduction

- Look at the front cover.
- Point out the title and the author.
- Ask, 'What can you see?'
- Ask your child to predict what the book will be about.
- Let your child turn the pages and see the pictures.
- Talk about what they think is happening in the book.
- Point out tricky words and character names.

Ways to help

- Encourage early readers to point under the word as they read it. This helps them to develop their concept of a word and track them as they read.
- If they get stuck then say, 'Get your lips ready for the first sound'.
- Encourage them to work out words by sounding them out and blending the sounds together.
- Pictures are in books to help children with their reading. Looking at the pictures will help them to predict and work out some tricky words.
- Encourage them to think about 'What makes sense?'
- Many parents feel frustrated when their child cannot read a word. Allow them plenty of time to the time to sound out and blend words. If your child is struggling to blend you could sound the word out for them. If this doesn't work then tell your child the word and ask them to repeat it. You could revisit the word again later to check if they have remembered it.