



Enjoy Reading – It Should Be Fun!

A guide to home reading with your child...

Purpose of reading at home:

At Woodlands Primary School we advocate students reading at home. The purpose of reading at home (in order of importance) is to:

- Develop a love and excitement for reading
- Encourage regular reading habits (e.g. four nights a week)
- Give your child a chance to share their favourite story with you
- Provide opportunities for your child to work on their fluency and expression
- Provides opportunities for your child to gain automaticity in recognition of larger number of high frequency words

Participating in Reading

Your child does not always have to be the reader to participate in reading. There are many different activities you and your child could have fun working on:

- Reading with your child—this means you can take turns or read together.
- Reading to your child
- Your child can read independently, either aloud or silently. There are three different ways your child can ‘read to self’: read the pictures, read the words or retell the story.
- Your child can also make up or predict what the story might be about by looking at the front cover, the title and illustrations.

Encouraging your child to read:

- Read with your child. Remember you can read the pictures, read the words or retell the story.
- Buy your child a safe bed-lamp and encourage the routine of reading in bed before lights-out. This should be seen as a special time—a reward.
- Give books as presents and show your child how to care for them

Enjoy reading with your child:

- Read with the T.V. off.
- Let your child know that you ENJOY the time together.
- Make listening to reading a SPECIAL time.
- Be seen as a reader YOURSELF.
- Encourage your child to make use of the local and school LIBRARIES.

Reading is about learning about a new topic or a character. So remember to:

- Talk about the book before you and your child read it.
- Look at the cover, the title and the pictures first.
- Ask your child “What do you think it is about?”

- Go through the book page by page and talk about the things you both see - children love discovering things in the illustrations.
- Talk about the pictures and the words or ideas that might be in the book.

Give your child time to work out unknown words:

- 5 seconds or more is reasonable
- After 10 seconds encourage your child to use the following strategies when they come across an unknown word:

“What do you think the word is?”

“Read the sentence again and see if you can work it out.”

“Have a go - what does it start with?”

“Look at the picture for clues.”

After reading, ask questions and talk about the book. It is a great way to check if your child understood what they have read and if they enjoyed the book.

Questions you could ask your child:

- Did you enjoy the book? Why?
- How did you choose it?
- What was your favourite part of the book? Why?
- Who were the main characters?
- Who was the character you liked the most?
- Can you describe your favourite character?
- Was there anything about the book you did not like? Why?
- Could you read the part of the book you enjoyed the most?
- Could you think of another ending for this story?
- Did you come across any unusual words or words you didn't know? Can you find them?
- Are there any words you did not know the meaning of?
- Can you retell what happened in the story?