Stanford Infant School

Exploring and Learning Together, Inspiring Each Other

Learning to Read at Stanford Infant School

An Information Leaflet for Families

Reading at Home

As parents/carers you play a vital role in helping your child develop a love of reading. It is really important that you spend time with your child on a regular basis sharing books and helping them understand what has been read.

This leaflet has been produced to support you in helping your child develop a love of reading for pleasure.

You will find Top 10 Tips for reading with your child as well as some key questions you can ask your child about what they have read.

We hope you will find this guide useful and informative and that it supports you with your child's home learning.

Top 10 Tips for Reading at Home

Learning to read takes lots of practice; all children will be able to read when they are ready and the following tips will allow you to make reading at home an enjoyable experience.

1. **Set aside a quiet time** to share a book. 10-15minutes a day or several times a week is usually long enough; you will know when is the best time for your family.
2. **Model reading yourself**—whether recipes, packets of food, newspapers, letters, emails or your favourite books. Try your own family 'Dropping Everything and Read Time' - 'Dear Time' for 5 minutes.
3. **Choose your battles**—If your child is tired or not in the mood for reading, stop and try again at another point. The use of a timer may help, or sharing the reading by taking it in turns to read a page each.
4. **Variety is the key**—children will enjoy sharing lots of different reading material, from fiction/non-fiction texts, magazines, comics, poems, computer programs, etc.
5. **Reading can take any form**—if practicing words find a creative way in: create treasure hunts with key words.
6. **Talk about what they are reading**. Just as important as being able to read the words on the page, is being able to understand what they have read. Always talk to your child about what they are reading; the pictures, the characters, etc. The questions in this leaflet will help get you off to a flying start.
7. **Visit the Library**—we are fortunate to have two local libraries in our City. Enjoy spending time choosing new books together is a reading rich environment.
8. **Be positive!** Boost your child's confidence for even the smallest achievement. If they struggle say "let's try it together".
9. **Make reading an enjoyable experience**— It really doesn't matter how you read with your child, as long as you both enjoy the experience.
10. **Keep on sharing** - even when your child is capably able to read alone. They gain so much from the shared experience.

Key Questions

¨ *What do you think this book is going to be about? Why?*

¨ *Why do you think the author has chosen this title?*

¨ *What do you think might happen next?*

¨ *What are the pictures telling us?*

¨ *How does the author make you want to keep reading the story?*

¨ *How does your voice change when someone in the story is speaking?*

¨ *Where and when did the story take place? How do you know?*

¨ *Have you been in a similar situation to the character in the book?*

¨ *Who are the key characters?*

¨ *Can you describe what is happening in the story?*

¨ *What is your favourite part of the story and why?*

¨ *Can you find any amazing adjectives?*

¨ *Can you think of another story that is similar to this one?*