

Bishop Loveday CE
Primary School



Help Your Child
with Reading

Year One

Key questions you can ask your child when reading a book, to help them reach their target:

- Who are the characters in the story?
- What did a character ask another character?
- Why did a character do/ say what they did?
- How did a character help/ upset/ scare another character?
- How are the characters related?
- How do the characters know each other?
- What is the story about?
- Is this story like any other stories we/you have read?
- What is the same/different about these stories?
- Have we met these characters before?
- Did the story make you think of something that once happened to you?
- When you feel sad/ happy/ scared... how do you show it? What do you do?

TARGETS - Year One

The following targets are intended to give you some idea of the things that your child should be able to do by the end of the year:

- Play 'I-spy' using letter sounds rather than names and recognise these at the beginning of words.
- Make simple three or four letter words: e.g. cat, hill
- Begin to recognise common words such as 'and', 'the', 'said', 'went'
- Recognise and write some simple rhyme patterns, e.g. at, cat, fat, ... cot, pot, lot, ... pin, win, tin
- Read aloud with a familiar story. Point to the words as you read.
- Memorise and chant along with repetitive phrases from the book: eg.. 'We're all going on a bear hunt...'
- Talk about and discuss their favourite stories.
- Retell a story in their own words, correctly remembering the order of what happens.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT BOOK

Let them choose

Your child is far more likely to be interested in a book if he/she has chosen it by him/herself. The teacher will be able to help choose a book at school for reading at home, but you could also use books from the library, magazines, instructions for games, etc.

Too easy or too hard

Usually, the choice will be about right, but as a rough guide, you can check by using the five-finger test. Be aware that occasionally teachers may decide to push your child forward with a book that doesn't exactly meet this criterion.

What to do if a book is too difficult

If your child chose the book he/she is probably interested in it so don't just send the book straight back to school. You might try the following:

- Talk about the pictures
- Read the book aloud
- Talk about what has happened in the story
- Comment in the reading record book

What to do if a book is too easy

Just carry on as normal - sometimes it is a good idea to read easy things because nothing is more encouraging than success. At the end of the book praise your child for reading well.

Choosing the



Perfect Book

Use the five finger method

Choose a page to read. Each time you see a word you do not know, put up one finger.

When you finish reading, see how many fingers are raised.

- 1 finger - easy reading
- 2 fingers - easy reading
- 3 fingers - just right
- 4 fingers - challenging
- 5 fingers - difficult

It is not only books that help your child to read.

At breakfast time - Look at the words on cereal packets, milk and fruit juice cartons. Get them to see how many words they can make out of the letters.

Look in the papers - If your child recognises a famous face, e.g. a football or TV star, it will make them want to read the story.

In the streets - You'll see advertising posters and place names.

In the shops - Your child can help you to find things in the supermarket by reading what's in each aisle.

Videos - Video boxes usually tell you the story. Get your child to read the box as well as watching the film.

Looking at catalogues - Let your child help with choosing clothes, presents, etc.

Unpacking the shopping - Your child can read the words on your groceries while helping to put them away.

CDs and tapes - Your child will find it easier to follow the words if they can hear them at the same time.

Computers - Using the keyboard will help your child become familiar with letters, and they will enjoy following instructions for simple games.

GENERAL TIPS FOR READING

Be enthusiastic

Your child will only be keen if you are. Your encouragement and interest will help your child enjoy reading and show him/her that you think it's important.



Give lots of praise

Children like to feel that their efforts are appreciated. It gives them confidence and makes them feel good. Let them know it's all right to make mistakes.

Get close together

Both of you will need to see the book clearly so that you can give instant praise when your child does well. Make it cosy and enjoyable.

Give them time

Let your child make a guess before you tell them a word. Help them to get the first sound or try breaking the word up into smaller sections.

Point with a finger

Encourage them to follow the words with their finger.

Don't make them try too hard!

It doesn't matter if you have to tell them the word sometimes

Ask lots of questions

Check they understand the story by asking them questions about what happens. Use the pictures to explain what's happening.

Find a quiet place

Children are easily distracted. They will not be able to read well if the television is on in the same room.

Little and often

Frequent short sessions are better than one long one. The quality of the reading is more important than the quantity. It is better to read for 2 minutes and then talk about the book for 10 minutes. This will help your child develop their comprehension skills.

Special time

The best time to share a book is when your child wants to read to you. Remember they may have had a busy day in school and might not be ready to concentrate when they first come home. Try to avoid interrupting a favourite television programme or an exciting game with a friend. After tea might be a good time, or perhaps just before bed.

Keep calm

This is not always easy. Some children read slowly and may get stuck on words they could read easily the day before. They may struggle with short words, which we think are easy - even good readers make careless mistakes. Do not pressure them by saying things like "Come on, you should know that word." Try to be relaxed.

Above all - try to make reading fun for you and your child!

How to encourage your child to read

Read yourself! Set a good example by sharing your reading. Let your children see that you value books and keep them at home.

Keep books safe. Make your child their own special place to keep their books. Show them how to turn pages carefully.

Point out words all around you. Help your child to read the words around them: on food packets in the supermarket, on buses, in newspapers, in recipes.

Visit your library – it's free to join! All libraries have children's sections. Many also have regular storytelling sessions.

Make time to read. Read a bedtime story with your child every night. Encourage them to share reading with grandparents, brothers and sisters and aunts and uncles.

Keep in touch with school. Make sure your child swaps their home reading books regularly at school and try to make a regular time slot of about 10 minutes to hear them read.

If English is not your family's first language: You can buy dual language books. You can talk about books and stories in any language.