

Reading Help & Advice For Parents

As a parent you have an important part to play in helping your child to learn to read. Here are some suggestions on how you can help to make this a positive experience at home for your child.

1. Choose a quiet time

Find somewhere quiet with no distractions. Ten to fifteen minutes or a few pages will be enough. 'Little and often' is best!

2. Reading strategies

Edlington Victoria uses the following strategies which will also support your child at home:

- Use the pictures for clues
- Segment and blend the sounds
- Look for smaller words hiding in bigger words
- Cut up the word into syllables
- Start the sentence again if it doesn't make sense
- Identify if the word looks like one you know

As part of your child's reading journey, it is important for them to select a reading strategy before telling them to use one.

3. Fluency

Your child needs to be a fluent reader to reach the National Expected Standard for their year group. This means that they are not segmenting and sounding out words out loud but reading with pace and expression. Fluency will support comprehension so this is a vital skill that we promote at school.

4. Model fluent reading

Children have a great ability to learn from others. One of the best ways to improve a child's reading fluency is to model it for them. Let the child hear what fluent reading should sound like. Then ask your child to read the same text in the same style as you did.

5. Make reading an enjoyable experience

Try not to pressure your child if they are a reluctant reader. Take turns reading aloud using silly voices and show them how much you enjoy reading too.

6. Use positive praise

Use positive and encouraging language. Boost your child's confidence with regular praise and rewards.

7. Comprehension

There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. It is equally important to understand what has been read. Always talk to your child about the book such as about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end, their favourite part or what information they have learnt. This important discussion will help you see how well they have understood the book and decide whether they need to read it again for meaning.

8. Assortment of texts

Children need to experience a variety of reading materials such as picture books, chapter books, comics, magazines, poems, newspapers and information books. Our reading scheme at school caters for these different types of texts, however extra exposure at home would support your child.