



# Helping your child at home

Making the most of reading at home.



Thorpe Church of England Primary School

*Faith, Love and Excellence*

## The benefits

Reading regularly with your child at home will be of great benefit to them. It supports their learning in a relaxed atmosphere and can enable them to learn sight words (**Last two pages in the home school link books**) and phonic sounds more quickly and move through the book band colours to become confident readers.

*A little reading goes a long way* - a good 10 minutes is much better than a difficult half an hour!

## Tips to support reading time at home

**Praise, praise, praise** - Whenever you are reading with your child or they read words during an outing, offer as much praise, encouragement and enthusiasm as possible!

**Choosing a good time** - Choose a time when there are minimal distractions and your child isn't tired. If bedtime is a quiet time when reading can be done, try taking it in turns to read with your child.

**Setting the scene** - Ask your child about the book so far or share the book by looking through the pictures first. Discuss what the book might be about as all this information will act as cues to your child when they are reading.

**Picture Perfect** - The pictures act as vital clues to help with reading, so never cover them up.

**Fingers at the ready** - Children should point to each word they are reading, this will help keep their focus and not to lose their place.

**Be patient** - When your child is trying to sound out an unfamiliar word, give him or her time to do so. You can help your child by:

- Reminding them to look closely at the first letter or letters of the word.
- Sound out the word
- Asking them to read the rest of the sentence this may help them understand the unfamiliar word.
- Looking at the pictures.
- Not correcting every word if the story still makes sense. Eg "mummy" is said instead of "mother".
- Supplying the word so that the fluency of the reading isn't lost.
- Once the unfamiliar word has been discovered, either you or your child should read the whole sentence again so the meaning is not lost.

**Dig deeper into the story** - Ask your child questions about the story you've just read. Say something like, "Why do you think he did that?" The stickers in the home school link books give targets for the children at each book band colour.

## Games to play with your Reception/Key Stage One child

**Sharing books** - Always remember that we teach phonics to help our children learn to read and write and in order to do this successfully they need to love books! The best way to help your child is to read as many books as possible in English or your child's home language. Read anything that your child is interested in (including magazines, menus, etc). You don't have to read all (or any) of the words each time. Remember to use silly voices, make sound effects, pull faces, act things out, talk about what you can see, talk about what you both think and feel and have fun! Re-reading books helps children read more quickly and accurately.

### Oral Blending games

**Robotic talking** - Words are made up from sounds and children need to be able to hear these sounds individually. Sometimes when you are playing you can say words as if you were a robot (saying the sounds separately) and see if your child can work out what you are saying. Stick to short simple words that only have a few sounds in them. Make sure you are saying the letter sounds (p-i-g) not the letter names (pee-eye-gee). E.g.

Pass that p-i-g to me.

Sit d-ow-n.

Point to your t-ee-th.

Hop like a f-r-o-g.

As your child becomes familiar with this robot talking, see if they can say words in robot talk themselves?

**I spy** - Say the rhyme 'I spy with my little eye something beginning with \_\_\_\_\_', allow your child plenty of opportunities to guess what you have chosen, for example, 'something beginning with t' could be a tree, toy, tent or train.

**Point out print everywhere** - Talk about the written words you see in the world around you. Ask your child to find familiar words on each outing.

**Playing with words** - Encourage your child to sound out the word as you change it from mat to fat to sat; from sat to sag to sap; and from sap to sip.

### Phoneme recognition games

**Looking for letters** - Ask your child to look for letters whilst you are out and about. Can they find letters from their own name, letters they have learnt in school or letters that specific words begin with?

**Letter sound bingo.** You will need: A 3x3 grid for each player & counters or coins  
Write some of the letters into the spaces on each card, making each card slightly different. The 'bingo caller' says each letter in turn and the players cover the letter up. The winner is first to fill their board. To make this game easier for new readers, show them the letter for them to match.

### **Tricky word games**

**Bingo** - You will need: A 3 x 3 grid for each player and counters or coins

The list of words your child is currently learning, for example their spelling list  
Write some of the words into the spaces on each card, making each card slightly different. The 'bingo caller' says each word in turn and the players cover the words up. The winner is first to fill their board. To make this game easier for new readers, show them the word for them to match.

**Matching pairs** - You will need: Small pieces of card or paper with the words your child is currently learning written on each. Each word will need to be written twice so you can search for a matching pair. Turn all the cards face down on the table. And take turns to turn over two. When a matching pair is found that player can keep them. The winner is the person with the most pairs at the end of the game.

**Snap** - Make a set of cards with words your child is learning written on. Ensure that each word is written on two separate cards. Shuffle the cards and share them out. Each player takes turns to turn over their card, put it down and read the word. If it matches the previous card played, the first person to notice shouts 'snap!' and wins the pile. This game is best used to practice words your child knows fairly well, rather than new ones, as it's quite fast-paced.

Once your child knows a word reliably, you can take it out of the current pack of cards and bring in a new word. Every so often, play a game with the 'old' cards, so that your child doesn't forget them. It's a good idea to try and discard a known word and add a new word every day, once your child gets the hang of learning new words.

### **Further ideas...**

**Create a book together** - Fold pieces of paper in half and staple them to make a book. Ask your child to write sentences on each page and add his or her own illustrations.

**Make up stories on the go** - Take turns adding to a story the two of you make up while riding in a car or bus. Try making the story funny.