

10 Tips on Hearing Your Child Read (at any age), **with questions you could ask them**



As parents you are your child's most influential teacher with an important part to play in helping your child to learn to read and to continue to enjoy reading throughout their childhood and on into adulthood.

Here are some suggestions on how you can help to make this a positive experience.

1. Choose a quiet time

Set aside a quiet time with no distractions. Ten to fifteen minutes is usually long enough.

2. Make reading enjoyable

Make reading an enjoyable experience. Sit with your child. Try not to pressurise if he or she is reluctant. If your child loses interest then do something else. Try a different type of reading; e.g. magazines, poems, subtitles on TV programmes! Also, reading to your child is invaluable. A child is never too old to be read to!

Lots of children love to re-read the same book. This is a fantastic thing to do as by doing this they learn story phrases, develop their love of story language and build their vocabulary, which they then start to use in their everyday speaking and writing.

3. Maintain the flow

If your child mispronounces a word do not interrupt immediately. Instead allow opportunity for self-correction. It is better to tell a child some unknown words to maintain the flow rather than insisting on trying to build them all up from the sounds of the letters. If your child does try to 'sound out' words, encourage the use of letter sounds rather than 'alphabet names'.

4. Be positive

If your child says something nearly right to start with that is fine. Don't say 'No. That's wrong,' but 'Let's read it together' and point to the words as you say them. Boost your child's confidence with constant praise for even the smallest achievement.

5. Success is the key

Parents anxious for a child to progress can mistakenly give a child a book that is too difficult. This can have the opposite effect to the one they are wanting. Remember 'Nothing succeeds like success'. Until your child has built up his or her confidence, it is better to keep to easier books. Struggling with a book with many unknown words is pointless. Flow is lost, text cannot be understood and children can easily become reluctant readers.

6. Visit the library

Encourage your child to use the public library regularly.

7. Regular practice

Try to read with your child on most school days. 'Little and often' is best. Teachers have limited time to help your child with reading.

8. Communicate

Your child has a reading diary from school. Try to communicate regularly with positive comments and any concerns. Your child will then know that you are interested in their progress and that you value reading.

9. Talk about the books

There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Just as important is being able to understand what has been read. Always talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end, their favourite part, their favourite words, etc. You will then be able to see how well they have understood and you will help them to develop good comprehension skills.

10. Variety is important

Remember, children need to experience a variety of reading materials; e.g. picture books, hard backs, comics, magazines, poems, eBooks, newspapers and information books. Do you want your children to be good readers? Let them see you read.



Reading Comprehension Questions

Here are some examples of questions that you can ask your child as they are reading their school reading book (and other books) with you at home, as well as for when you read to them. These are the sort of questions that we focus on in school and help to build your child's level of comprehension. These questions are not a list to work through, but just to pick and choose from depending on the book and genre.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Thank you, Mrs Lennon

Questions to discuss before reading the book	
What does the title tell you about the story / book? Who is the author? Who is the illustrator? Predict what will happen in the story. Is the book fiction or non-fiction? How do you know? How might this story relate to your life?	What do the pictures on the cover tell you about the story? What do the pictures in the book tell you about the story? What would you like to find out in the story / book? What questions do you have about the story? Identify any unfamiliar words in the title.
Questions to discuss during reading	
Who are the main characters? Where does the story take place? Identify one problem or conflict in the story. Identify and predict how a problem may be solved. Choose a problem in the story. How could this problem have been avoided? Did the solution to one problem cause another to occur?	How would you attempt to solve a problem in the story? Which character can you relate to so far? Why? How does the story relate to your life? What questions do you have about the story? Predict how the story will end. Find an unfamiliar word – what do you think it means?
Questions to discuss when the book is finished	
Summarise the story – what was it about? How does the story end? Which words/phrases/sentences/paragraphs did you enjoy and why? How was a problem solved? What is the main idea of the story? How can you relate to the story?	How are you and the main character different? How are you and the main character alike? How might you end the story differently? How might you retitle the story? Why? What lessons can you learn from the story? Retell a main event within the story.