



How to help your child develop their reading skills

All children develop at different rates. They may appear to make no progress for some time, then things will suddenly begin to click, and they can make rapid progress. After a while this progress is likely to plateau out as children consolidate their learning.

Some children will be confident readers by the end of their Reception year. Others will just be beginning to read independently. Others may not be reading at all, but will be ready to take off when they go into Year 1.

Sometimes, particularly if it's your first or only child starting school, you may not be sure if your child is doing OK. If you ever have any worries, then please ensure that you speak to your child's class teacher and ask if they have any concerns - 9 times out of 10 they will be able to reassure you that your child is doing just fine. But try not to let your child know that you're worried. Children tend to be a lot more relaxed about these things than parents. And that's how we want it to stay. Anxious children find it harder to learn. Happy, confident children make the best learners.

Love of books

There is no point teaching children to read if they never want to pick up a book. This is one of the most enjoyable ways that you can help your child. Try to read a bedtime story every evening and make that story time a special, calm, cosy time.

Even when your child is a fluent reader, carry on reading to them.

Knowing how books work (demonstrate with big book)

- Start at the front cover not back cover
- Which way up a book goes
- Picture on front cover gives us a clue as to what the book will be about. (helps when children are choosing a book). Knowing that there are different kinds of books (stories, nursery rhymes, poems, non-fiction, dictionaries, atlases)
- Knowing that we get information from both pictures and text
- Text goes from left to right
- Discuss characters e.g. how do they feel, what kind of person are they?
- Predict what will happen next
- Being able to express preferences - favourite part of a story, which characters they liked or disliked, why they found a story funny or exciting