



**HELPING YOUR
CHILD TO READ**

LISTEN TO YOUR CHILD READ AND READ TO THEM TOO:

- Your child's reading will improve by reading regularly to you at home.
- You can help them love books and develop their comprehension skills by reading stories to them too.
- Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination and has educational benefits too. Just a few minutes a day can have a big impact on children of all ages.

TARGET BOOK LEVELS:

- We have target book levels for the end of each year group:
- Year 1 - level 18
- Year 2 - level 24
- Year 3 - level 26
- Year 4 - level 28
- Year 5 - level 30
- When children have reached their target they become “Rainbow Readers.”
- After level 30 the children are “free readers.”



LITTLE AND OFTEN

MAKE READING A POSITIVE HABIT:

- Try to read at the same time every day so you won't forget to do it.
- Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently - or together.
- Give your child your full attention.
- Change their book every week or if it's too hard or doesn't interest them.
- Read aloud regularly and try to read to your child every day.
- Try adding funny voices to bring the character to life.

THE MORE THEY READ, THE BETTER THEY GET:

- It's just like learning to play a musical instrument or learning to ride a bike – IF YOU DON'T PRACTICE YOU WON'T GET BETTER!
- The better they get the more they want to do it.
- Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more.
- Libraries in England are able to open from 4 July, so visit them when you're able to and explore all sorts of reading ideas. Local libraries also offer brilliant online materials, including audiobooks and eBooks to borrow. See Libraries Connected for more digital library services and resources.



**MAKE SURE
THEY READ AT A
GOOD PACE**

AIM FOR FLUENCY:

- If children read too slowly they won't understand what they are reading.
- Try to get them to read so it sounds like a story – bring reading to life!
- You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Would you recommend it to a friend? Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.
- Let them re-read books they have read before so they learn to read easily and fluently.

IF YOUR CHILD IS READING TOO SLOWLY:

- Try paired reading – read along with your child, drop out when they feel confident to go it alone – come back in if they become hesitant.
- Read a page each.
- Change the book for an easier one
- Make reading active
- Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you're reading. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.



**MAKE SURE THEY
UNDERSTAND WHAT
THEY READ**

TALK ABOUT WHAT THEY'VE READ:

- Make sure your child has understood what they've read.
- Can they tell you what's happened in their own words?
- Can they predict what might happen next or summarise what has already happened?
- Talking about the book is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas.
- You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything.

UNDERSTANDING WORDS AND PHRASES:

- Even if your child can read a word, they might not understand it.
- Make sure they ask you if they don't understand a word – or you can ask them if they know what a word means.
- Some phrases are tricky to understand too...check they know what they mean e.g. “talking to a brick wall!”
- Ask lots of questions about the characters emotions in order to help your child ‘read between the lines’. This is a very useful skill when reading but it can be hard to learn.



**THANK YOU FOR
READING WITH YOUR
CHILD!**



NORTH STAR
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