

## Getting Started

**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 both English and 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!

**Unofficial homework** - Encourage your child to tell you what they have done at school today. Sharing new songs and rhymes is something that you can easily do when you are busy with something else e.g. cooking, cleaning, driving in the car.

**Give everything a name** - Build your child's vocabulary in both English and their home language by talking about interesting words and objects. For example, "Look at that aeroplane! Those are the wings of the plane. Why do you think they are called wings?"



## General tips to support reading

**Once is never enough!** - Encourage your child to re-read favourite books and poems as well as their school reading scheme book. Re-reading helps children read more quickly and accurately.

**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?"

**Take control of the television** - It's difficult for reading to compete with TV and video games. Encourage reading as a distraction free activity.

**Be patient** - When your child is trying to sound out an unfamiliar word, give him or her time to do so. Remind to child to look closely at the first letter or letters of the word.

**Pick books that are at the right level** - Help your child pick books that are not too difficult. The aim is to give your child lots of successful reading experiences.

**I read to you, you read to me** - Take turns reading aloud at bedtime. Kids enjoy this special time with their parents.

**One more time with feeling** - When your child has sounded out an unfamiliar word, have him or her re-read that sentence. Often kids are so busy figuring out a word they lose the meaning of what they've just read.



Useful Websites



[www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/learningathome/index.asp](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/learningathome/index.asp)

[www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home)

[www.scottishbooktrust.com](http://www.scottishbooktrust.com)

Online Games

[www.ictgames.com/literacy.html](http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html)

[www.phonicsplay.co.uk/index.htm](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/index.htm)

[www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)

Please note that this is an American website so there may be differences in spelling and pronunciation.

[www.teachyourmonstertoread.com](http://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com)

**Helping your child at home**

**A guide to support Early Reading**



**Lorne Street Primary School**

