Reading at home with your Reception child

Children need to develop pleasure in reading, motivation to read, an increased vocabulary and an improved level of understanding. They will do this by listening to and discussing a wide range of poems, stories and non-fiction texts at a level beyond that which they can read independently. By frequently listening to stories, poems and information texts that they cannot yet read for themselves, children begin to understand how written language can be structured in order, for example, to build surprise in narratives or to present facts in a non-fiction piece. By reading together, children can also be shown some of the processes for finding out information within a book (e.g. modelling the use of a contents page or index).

Tips for developing reading skills at home



Really look at the pictures and ask your child questions. Talk about what is happening in the pictures **before** you read the text. *What is happening here? What can you see?*



Take turns to do the reading. You read a page and then your child. If a child sees you enjoying a book they will naturally want to copy their grown up!



Make reading relevant. Just like adults, if a book is about something that interests your child, they'll be more likely to want to read it. Mix it up. Read a comic or look at an atlas from time to time to keep them interested in a variety of texts.



Make predictions. *What do you think will happen next? What makes you think that?* If your child's prediction is way off the mark, model your own and give your reasons.



Have a special reading space. Maybe a set up a special chair or den that is specifically for reading time. Maybe your child could wear their reading hat or crown to read. If a child sees reading as a special, sacred time, they are more likely to enjoy the process!



Discover new words. Use a dictionary together to get your child used to exploring words for themselves.

Tips for developing phonics skills at home



Be sound detectives! Everywhere you go, be on the lookout for initial sounds.



Play lots of games. Practise tricky words and sounds at any given opportunity. You could write them on post it notes and splat them, play sound bingo or even create colouring sheets together?



Pretend to be a robot. *'Can you bring me your s-o-ck-s?'*



Encourage your child to segment (break up) words into their sound parts and blend them (push them back together).



Pretend that you can't read particular words within your child's phonic knowledge. Ask them to read them to you.



Put flour, salt, rice or sugar on a baking tray and spell out words together. Or use magnetic letters on the fridge.