REMEMBER!

- Reading isn't only in books.
- Reading other things is just as important.
- Reading other things is fun.
You can help your child to read the books sent home from school, but there are other things you can read together as well.

**You can read:**
- The newspaper
- A hobby magazine
- The T.V. Guide
- Road signs
- Shop signs
- Advertisements
- Food packets

**What else can children read?**

You can read:
- Labels
- Special offers
- Check-out information

At the garage:
- Information on the petrol pumps
- How to use the car wash
- Safety rules

At the doctors:
- Notices
- Magazines
- Health leaflets

Reading is all around us
Enjoying Reading with your Child

REMEMBER!

- Talk about the book
- Share the reading
- Keep it short
- Choose a sensible time
- Re-read
- PRAISE, PRAISE, PRAISE!
Why do some children not enjoy reading?

When children find reading difficult they may not enjoy reading to you. This can become stressful for both you and your child and it can prevent your child from wanting to read at home.

How can you help?

Here are some tips on how to make reading more enjoyable for you and your child:

- Choose a time to suit you both. Just before a favourite TV programme is never ideal!
- Try to read with your child regularly, but be realistic! Three times a week can be enough to make a difference.
- Decide with your child how long you are going to spend reading. Five minutes might be quite enough for both of you!
- Before reading a book, spend some time looking through it and talking together about the pictures.
- Share the reading with your child. You could start off, then take in turns reading a page each.
- Try not to be critical. No child makes mistakes on purpose. **PRAISE** encourages your child to try their best.
- If there’s enough time, let the child re-read the book. This second reading gives them a chance to read more confidently.
Helping your Left-handed Child with Writing

REMEMBER!

You will be helping your child by:

- Praising all efforts to write
- Showing them how to form the letters correctly
- Showing them how to leave spaces between words
Ways to help?

- Ensure your child is sitting comfortably.
- Position the paper slightly to the left and tilt it towards the right.
- Encourage your child to hold the pencil/pen correctly.
- Watch your child form his/her letters. Help your child to make the correct letter formation.
- Don't criticise letter or word reversals - show your child the correct way and encourage him/her to try again.
- Praise your child's effort. Remember it generally takes much longer for left-handed children to write neatly and swiftly.

Left-hand writers

Many left-handed children find handwriting difficult. They tend to grip the pencil tightly and this can make their hands tired. As they write, their hand covers the words and this means that they can't see what they have written. They may also find it difficult to leave spaces between words. Left-handed children can develop a very good handwriting style but it might take them a little longer than their right-handed friends.
REMEMBER!

- Never make fun of your child’s efforts. If you do they will not want to write for you again.
- Don’t just point out the spelling mistakes. Concentrate on what your child wants to communicate.
- Children need praise, encouragement and support. If they know you are pleased they will try again and again.
Encouraging writing at home

Children who find reading difficult usually find writing even harder!

There are many things you can do at home to help. Encouraging them to join in with everyday writing (e.g. messages and lists) helps them to understand the purpose of writing. If they make mistakes they need help rather than criticism.

Things to do

- Encourage your child to write things that adults write (e.g. shopping lists, telephone messages, quick notes to you, reminders).
- Try joining in with the writing - you write a bit then your child writes a bit.
- Ask your child to write a 'My Friends’ Names and Addresses’ list.
- Encourage your child to send messages / e-mails to friends.
- Start a scrap book and paste in tickets, postcards, holiday memorabilia and encourage your child to label and date these.
- Be pleased that your child has made the effort to write.
REMEMBER!

Talk about the book, e.g.

- What can you see on the cover?
- What has happened so far?
- Can you guess what will happen next?
- Why do you think he did that?
- How many marks out of ten would you give the book? Why?
Why does it help children to talk about books?

Talking about books helps children understand what they have read and makes reading more interesting. It can be as important as hearing your child read.

Talking about reading

Before reading talk about:
- The cover (title, author, pictures)
- What you think the book is going to be about?

During reading talk about:
- What has happened so far?
- Why do you think that happened?
- What will happen next?

After reading talk about:
- Was it a good chapter/story/ending?
- What did you think of the book?
- Which part did you like best? Why?
REMEMBER!

- Reading to your child will not make them lazy about reading.
- Reading to your child shows them that you think reading is important.
- Sharing books with your child reminds them that reading can be fun.
Why is it helpful to read to children?

Reading to your child is just as important as hearing your child read. When you read to your child you are showing them:

- That you think reading is important.
- How to read with expression.
- That you enjoy reading.

What sort of things can you read?

You do not always have to read school books to your child. You could read:

- Something from the newspaper
- A joke book
- A recipe
- A magazine
- An annual

Things to do

Before reading talk about:

- The cover (title, author, pictures)
- What you think the book is going to be about?

During reading talk about:

- What has happened so far?
- Why do you think that happened?
- What will happen next?

After reading talk about:

- Was it a good chapter/story/ending?
- What did you think of the book?
- Which part did you like best? Why?
REMEMBER!

- Talk about the book before reading it.
- Give your child time to work out tricky words.
- Praise your child if they read correctly.
- Praise your child for having a good try, even if they get it wrong.
- Don't make reading a test!!
Why is it helpful to read with children?

Helping your child with reading at home helps them to make more progress at school. Children love parents to take an interest in what they are doing, and your help can make a BIG difference! If you can help them to practise the skills they have been taught in school they are more likely to remember them.

Things to do

Hearing your child read can be quite stressful especially when they make mistakes. It is important to try and make time together enjoyable and successful. Here are a few simple tips to follow when your child brings home a book to read to you:

- Look through the book and talk about the pictures.
- Read the first few pages to your child.
- Then let your child read on their own.
- If your child can't read a word, give them a few seconds to work it out. Working out how to solve tricky words is very good reading practice.
- If your child works out the work, PRAISE their success.
- If your child can't work out the word, PRAISE them for trying.
- Tell them the word and ask them to repeat it.
- When your child has finished reading, talk about the book together.