

TOP TIPS FOR SUPPORTING READING

What Good Readers Do

- Picture the story in their mind – they imagine what the characters and places look like.
- Hear a voice in their head – almost like someone is reading the story aloud to them.
- Guess what might happen next – using clues from the story to make predictions.
- Ask questions as they go – noticing puzzles or things that don't make sense yet.
- Feel connected to characters – sharing in their emotions, joys, and struggles.
- Keep track of the storyline – being able to say simply what is happening.
- Go back and re-read – if something is confusing, they check again until it's clearer.
- Read between the lines – picking up hints or hidden meanings the writer suggests.
- Make connections – linking the story to their own life, other books, or real events.
- Have opinions – saying what they like, dislike, or find interesting about the book.



Prompts For Reading Discussions

These questions will help you to talk about the books your child is reading.

Before reading:

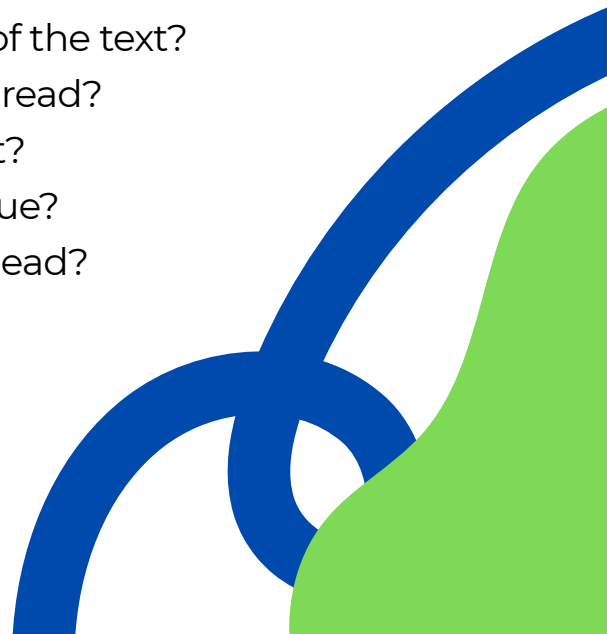
- ☐ Why have you chosen this text?
- ☐ What do you already know about the text?
- ☐ Does it have anything in common with any other texts you have read?
- ☐ Does it have any relation to your own experiences?
- ☐ What do you expect from this text?
- ☐ How should you approach reading this text?

During reading:

- ☐ How can you work out...?
- ☐ What have you learnt about...?
- ☐ What words could you look up in a dictionary?
- ☐ What do you think about...?
- ☐ How do you imagine ... feels?
- ☐ Why do you think ... does ...?
- ☐ What is the author suggesting about...?
- ☐ How does the organisation of the text help you?
- ☐ What do the images show you? Why are they there?
- ☐ What do you think might happen next?

After reading:

- ☐ What did you like / dislike about the text? How did it make you feel?
- ☐ Did anything surprise you about the text?
- ☐ Do you need / want to re-read any part of the text?
- ☐ What have you learnt from what you've read?
- ☐ Would you like to continue with this text?
- ☐ How do you think the text might continue?
- ☐ Are you left with any questions in your head?



Top Tips for Encouraging Reading at Home

“The more you engage with their reading, the more their skills and enjoyment will grow.”

Be a role model – Let your child see you reading. Children copy what adults do.

Offer choice – Allow your child to choose books that interest them. It doesn't matter if it's about football, fashion, or superheroes — interest builds motivation.

Celebrate favourites – If your child loves one author, series, or topic, encourage it. Re-reading or following a series builds confidence.

Try audiobooks – Listening while reading a printed copy helps with understanding, pronunciation, and interest.

Respect personal taste – Don't expect your child to enjoy the books you liked. Their world is different, and their interests are too.

Look out for award-winning books – Books that win children's literature awards are usually high quality and engaging.

Think beyond storybooks – biographies, poetry, travel guides, sports, recipes, even game instructions. Subscribe (print or digital) to a newspaper, or a magazine that matches your child's interests — science, football, fashion, or technology.

Read for real life – Books that explore issues or worries (friendship, bullying, growing up) can help children process their own experiences.

Making Reading a Habit - Create a reading routine. Even 10 minutes a day adds up. Try after dinner or before bedtime.

Talk about reading and read together – Ask simple questions: What happened in the story? Which part did you enjoy? Show interest in their answers. Once a week, sit with your child and share a book. Even older children value this time.

Discuss everyday reading – Junk mail, adverts, or posters can teach children how language persuades us. Ask: What are they trying to make us do?

Make it fun – When out, read signs, menus, and labels together. Turn it into a game: Who can find the funniest word?

