

## A brief overview of reading

Reading is the key to learning. Being able to read will open the doors to a million opportunities for your child. Reading is an important skill which will help children to become successful at school. Most of a child's learning is done from reading writing in classrooms or in books, magazines and from the teacher. Once a child can read, the easier it will be for them to learn what they need to in school. The more a child reads, the more a child will learn. The more a child learns, the more they understand. The more a child knows, the more they will achieve.



There are plenty of ways to encourage your child to read. Remember to get them involved by making reading entertaining, fun and enjoyable. It would be really helpful if you choose fun reading games to play (like reading signs) whilst walking your child to school, driving them somewhere or whilst you're out shopping.



Reading helps to develop a child's imagination and is a great way to help your child to dream! Reading can also support logical thinking and problem solving skills.



Bedtime is a perfect time to read to your child. As well spending time with you during reading time, your child is developing useful communication skills by noticing the interactions between the characters in the books. It is also a great opportunity to spend quality time together and bond with your child. Many children, as they get older, have fond memories of times spent reading with parents.



Reading is relaxing. When you're reading, you sit in a silent location, relax your mind, and focus on whatever it is that you are reading. Your brain slows down, and you're normally calm. This comfortable state is fairly similar to meditating, and through reading, your child will learn to relax.















Reading promotes a stronger self-discipline, a longer attention span, and better memory retention. These traits will serve your child well while learning at school.



**WE LOVE  
READING**



# Menu of reading activities:

<p>Word</p> 	<p>Picture question game</p> 	<p>Visit a library or local bookshop</p> 
<p>Flash cards</p> 	<p>Use a comprehension book mark</p> 	<p>Word/picture/object match</p> 
<p>Car journey games</p> 	<p>Real Life activities</p> 	<p>Personal reading menu</p> 
<p>Reading together</p> 	<p>Special books</p> 	<p>Changing stories</p> 

## **The menu explained...**

### **Word Bingo**

Give each player a board with words on it. The caller reads out the words. If a player has a word he or she puts a counter on it. Once all the words are covered the player shouts BINGO!

### **Picture Question game**

Discuss the picture before the game. What can we see? What could be happening? Players take turns to remove a card and read the question which corresponds to the number on the back. If the answer is yes the player keeps the card, if not it gets put in the 'bin'. The winner is the player with the most cards at the end.

### **Visit a bookshop**

Local libraries and bookshops are a great way to introduce your child to new books. Most have a children's area where children can sit quietly and read or do some fun reading activities for free.

### **Flash Cards**

Use the flash cards to practise reading new words with your child. You could use a timer and set a challenge to see who can read them quickest.

### **Comprehension Bookmark**

As your child is reading, use the questions on the bookmark to check for understanding. Keep the bookmark inside the book for next time.

### **Word/picture/object match**

On a table, lay out a set of words along with the corresponding picture or object. Ask your child to match them up.

### **Car journey games**

Car journeys are an ideal opportunity to chat with your child, make up stories, sing and tell jokes! Practising reading skills in 'real life' helps to understand the role of reading in real life! Ask your child to find signs that you are looking for. Who could be the first one to spot a sign saying 'No Entry' etc.?

## **Real life activities**

Practise reading in real life situations such as shopping, reading food labels, lists, instructions, posters and special offers to find information. It's a great idea to make good use of everyday situations - you've got to get the jobs done so you may as well get the whole family involved!

## **Personal Reading Menu**

If it is a struggle to get your child to read every day, use the personal reading menu so that they can choose which activity they want to do.

## **Reading together**

Make sure you keep a balance between encouraging your child with learning to read and having fun reading together. Don't give up on telling stories and reading of all kinds to your child to help them to develop an understanding and love of reading. If you do that, you are more likely to keep them reading later!

## **Special books**

Explain to your child how special books are so that they value them and look forward to reading. Perhaps you could use books as a reward for really good behaviour or something to save up pocket money for. A story book that is put away for special occasions or rainy days could be something for your child to look forward to. Showing a love for books will encourage your child to do the same.

## **Changing Stories**

Changing stories can be really good fun and will also help your child's writing. Ask your child to read a familiar story (for example The Three Little Pigs), and change the characters and even the setting. The pigs could become birds and the houses could become nests. Use sticky notes on each page to remind them of their changes and then ask them to read their new story to someone else.

## Useful weblinks and resources:

<http://www.readingrockets.org/teaching/reading-basics/spelling> - spelling strategies, app recommendations and much more!

[www.primarygames.com/reading.php](http://www.primarygames.com/reading.php)

Reading Games - Primary Games - Play Free Online Games

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/7-11-years/reading>

Reading, English Games for 7-11 Years - Topmarks

<https://www.education.com/games/ela/reading/>

Free Online Reading Games | Education.com

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/welcome-back/for-home/reading-owl/fun-ideas>

Fun ideas | Oxford Owl

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk) > Home > English

BBC - KS2 Bitesize English - Reading

