



**A Parent's Guide to
Reading at Home
EYFS/KS1**

“The more you **read**
the more **things** you know.

The more that you **learn**
the more **places** you’ll go.”
-Dr. Seuss



DON'T LET YOUR CHILD GET LEFT BEHIND



SUPPORTING READING AT HOME IN EYFS/KS1

Spring Gardens Primary School is strongly committed to promoting reading and instilling a love of books to all our children. Parents and carers always appreciate information about how they can best support their children at home, so we have put together some tips and advice in this booklet.

WHY READING MATTERS

When children have fallen behind in reading by age 11, the impact can last for the rest of their lives. They are less likely to go on to secure good qualifications. Their chances of getting a good job and taking themselves out of poverty are severely lowered.

Young children who enjoy reading independently will have had the door opened to new discoveries and wide interests, to knowledge, creativity and confidence.

Parents, carers and anyone with a child in their life can make a huge difference by reading for just **ten** minutes a day.

'Reading well' by the age of 11 means that children should not only be able to read the words that are written down, but they should also have a wider understanding of the meaning behind stories and information and be able to talk about them and comment on them.

DON'T LET YOUR CHILD GET LEFT BEHIND

- Every parent/ carer has a crucial role to play in helping their child to read
- Research shows that this makes a huge impact on your child's progress, especially if you start when your child is young
- Being a good reader will help your child to access many areas of the curriculum e.g. maths problems
- To be good at writing, you need to be a good reader



Ten Reasons Why You Should Read With Your Child

- **Creates a bond**-Spending time reading to your children will bring you closer together
- **Expands vocabulary**- The more children read, the more words they learn. This will continue to help them with their writing as they move through the school and even when they get to high school.
- **Improves attention span**- Reading helps children concentrate for longer.
- **Increases self-esteem** - Stories with happy endings make children feel better.
- **Increases academic success** - Every child is taught the same way at school - it's the extra learning at home that can give them an edge.
- **Teaches social values** - Children can learn from the way that characters in stories treat one another.
- **Helps build empathy** - Story books help children imagine what it must be like to be someone else.
- **Encourages curiosity** - Every time they turn the page, there's something new to see or imagine.
- **Encourages independence**- Once children learn to read, they can start reading books all by themselves.
- **Your child will become a reader for life** - They may forget how to ride a bike, but they'll never forget how to read!

Encouraging Reading

- Read yourself - newspapers, magazines or books
- Value books and keep them safe
- Show enthusiasm for books and reading
- Talk about your favourite books
- Visit the library
- Make time for reading together - not just at bedtime
- End each day with bedtime reading
- Help your child to understand and enjoy reading
- Be patient and unhurried - show that you're happy to spend the time together

Let them read favourites

Sometimes children are happy to read their favourite books over and over again. This is great for increasing their confidence and ensures that they have an enjoyable experience. The children who read regularly at home often progress quickly and it helps them in school with all aspects of their learning.



Talking About the Pictures

The pictures are a very important part of the story, especially for younger children.

- Try to get your child to tell you what they can see
- Ask them if the picture helps them to work out what is going to happen next
- Get them to name the characters and objects they can see
- Encourage them to say the words that are in the text (and what they mean)



Asking Questions

WHO? WHAT? WHERE? WHEN? WHY? HOW?

- Who do you think is under the covers?
- Tell me what you can see.
- How many toys are on the bed?
- What can you see at the bottom of the picture?
- What do you think he is doing?
- Have you ever hidden in your bed?
- Is there only one person under the bed?
- Why do you think they are hiding?
- What do you think they are going to do next?

Phonics

Children use their phonics skills to read unknown words by saying **sounds** rather than letter names. We ask the children to 'say the sounds and read the word'. Please encourage sounding out and blending as one of their reading skills for working out unknown words.

High Frequency Words

There are frequent, everyday words that children need to know. Some examples of these are 'the' and 'said'. With regular reading, children become familiar with these words quite quickly.



PAUSE...PROMPT...PRAISE...

When your child is reading aloud and makes a mistake...

PAUSE

- Give them 5 seconds to correct themselves, or to make an attempt to read the word.

PROMPT

- If the word is not read correctly, you could give one or more prompts.
- Give the word to them.
- Remind them of a picture clue.
- Review what went on before.
- Encourage them to look ahead.
- Explore the thinking behind their guess.
- Encourage them to look at the shape/the ending/the middle of the word.
- Break the word into syllables.

PRAISE

- Praise the correct reading of a difficult word.
- Praise an attempt at getting the word correct even if it's not successful.
- Be specific when praising.
- Comment on the use of context.
- Praise for carrying on.
- Praise for using phonic clues.
- Find opportunities to discuss difficult words or parts of words so that your child can practise and learn.