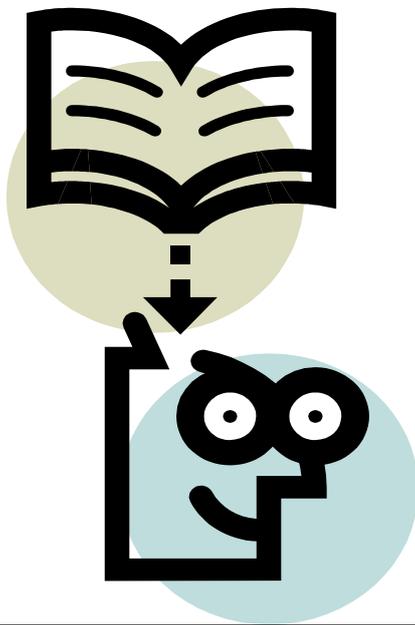


White Notley CE  
Primary School

## Helping your child to read



All children are different - some will be keen to look at books and to read from an early age, whilst others may take longer to get the reading 'bug'! No matter how old they are, most children enjoy listening to a story at bed time! The purpose of this leaflet is to give parents some ideas that can be used to enhance your child's reading skills and, just as important, to open up the magical world of books.

### Getting ready to Read (3 - 4 year olds)

As children begin to join in with reading they need to listen to stories, songs and rhymes and to join in with the telling of familiar stories, handle books and enjoy looking at pictures.

#### How can parents help - some practical ideas

- Share books with your child and talk about the book cover and title, the details in the pictures and the meaning of the print.
- Read fairy stories, traditional stories and nursery rhymes to your child.
- Encourage children to retell their favourite stories.
- Help your child to recognise and read their name.
- Recognise or match some easy words.
- Recognise some letter sounds in their own names.
- Make sure your child knows that print is read from left to right.
- Point out words starting with the same letter.
- Use magnetic letters or sponge letters - match them to letters in books or to spell simple words.

## **Starting to Read (4 year olds)**

Children will enjoy listening to stories and reading aloud with you from the same book - they will soon realise that reading can be a fun activity!

### **How can parents help – some practical ideas**

- Encourage child to retell a simple story or talk about a day out - this helps sequencing skills.
- Read simple sentences using clues in the pictures.
- Recognise letter sounds at the beginning of words.
- Recognise some simple words by sight.
- Talk about the cover or title picture and ask your child to predict what the story might be about.
- Talk about what may happen next after reading a page.
- Ask some simple questions after the book is finished.
- Draw pictures of favourite story characters or those on TV and talk about them.
- Look at pictures in a sequence that tells a story.
- Look at words/ signs around you at home and when 'out and about' and read them - make scrapbooks of pictures of objects beginning with the same letter.
- Play 'I spy'.
- Sing the alphabet song.

## **Becoming a Reader (4-5 year olds)**

By now most children are starting to recognise 10 - 20 easy words by sight and reading simple, short sentences. They will recognise most letters that begin words and use some expression when they read a story or retell one

### **How can parents help – some practical ideas**

- Look at the pictures together before you start and talk about what the story might be about.
- Read aloud any difficult or tricky words.
- Read aloud any repeated phrases to help your child to recognise them by sight when they are reading on their own - 'I'll huff and I'll puff!', for example.
- Talk about the sequence of events in a story.
- Point out letters that often go together, such as st, ch, th etc.
- Talk about what might happen after the story ends.
- Write captions for photographs or interesting pictures.
- Read rhyming books and make up silly, nonsense rhymes.
- Start to recognise common words such as but, come, want, was etc.

### **Becoming more confident (5 - 6 Year olds)**

Children who are gaining in confidence will begin to recognise between 30 and 50 common words by sight and try to read harder sentences with less support. They will increasingly use letter sounds to help read words.

#### **How can parents help - some practical ideas**

- Encourage your child to re-read the text when it doesn't make sense.
- Work out tricky words using pictures, phonics and the meaning of the sentence.
- Discuss links between events in the book and their own lives.
- Encourage children to read with expression by modelling.
- Encourage children to 'chunk' words to help read them.
- Encourage children to write their own short stories or accounts of real events - holidays, trips, shopping, weekend treats etc
- Ask your child how characters might feel and what they might think at different times in stories
- Help children to retell stories from television programmes and films they have watched.
- Continue to expand your child's sight vocabulary of common words.

### **Reading with confidence (6 - 7 Year olds)**

Confident readers will be expanding their sight vocabulary to 50 words and above. They will be able to read silently and begin to read longer books, including simple non-fiction texts about their favourite topics, such as animals, cars, football etc.

#### **How can parents help - some practical ideas**

- Encourage child to sound out longer, more difficult words.
- Encourage your child to express an opinion about the book, the characters and the plot - what do they especially like or dislike and why.
- Continue to encourage children to 'chunk' words and sound them out.
- Share/ read books together which may contain challenging vocabulary but will maintain your child's interest.
- Ask questions that will enable your child to recall information from a text - names of characters.
- Begin to ask your child questions about a book that requires some ability to infer meaning i.e. reading between the lines!

## **Becoming an experienced reader (8 - 9 Year olds)**

Experienced readers will read with a high degree of expression, fluency and understanding. They will read widely and may have identified a favourite genre of book, a favourite author or illustrator.

### **How can parents help - some practical ideas**

- Encourage your child to read regularly each day at home for about 20 minutes or more if they wish.
- Discuss different parts of a non-fiction text and text features e.g. titles, sub-headings, captions, bullet points, different fonts.
- Introduce a wider variety of texts, including information books, comics, poems, joke books etc.
- Identify powerful vocabulary that appeals to your child - we often call these 'Wow! Words' in school.



## **Becoming an accomplished reader (10 - 11 Year olds)**

Accomplished readers will continue to read with great expression, fluency and understanding. They are keen to read widely across a considerable range of genres for pleasure and for information. They will read silently for substantial, sustained periods of time and will also read confidently in front of an audience. They will be able to use the information they have gained from books or websites to give presentations or complete projects. The sky's the limit!

### **How can parents help - some practical ideas**

- Encourage your child to read lengthy books in a sustained manner.
- Encourage them to use dictionaries or glossaries to find out about difficult words.
- Discuss persuasive texts, such as adverts, catalogues, travel brochures etc.
- Discuss and share favourite authors and their choices of language, subject, character and plot development.
- Encourage your child to give evidence from a text for their opinions.