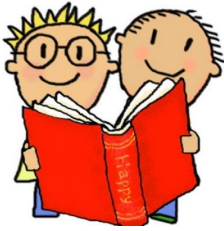




A parent's little guide to helping children read



At The Gattons Infant School we aim to develop a reading community where children become confident and fluent readers. For us to do this we need to take reading beyond the classroom. We want to create a rich reading environment where reading is encouraged by everyone and everywhere.

Top Tips for busy Mums, Dads and Carers.

Research shows that reading to a child is the single most important thing you can do to help your child's education.

This guide aims to give you creative, practical and most important of all, easy ways to help you help your son or daughter as they start out on the road to enjoying reading for themselves.



Spending just ten minutes of focussed reading time a day can make a world of difference not only to your child but to you!

Tip 1 — Focus on what you can do and not what you can't!

Sometimes as parents it feels like we are working flat out just to fit everything in! But remember although we find it hard to find the time to read and play with our children, when it comes to reading, just a few simple things can make all the difference.

- Your child's class teacher will have lots of ideas of how to help.
- The local library often runs story telling workshops and lend story tapes and CD's so your child can enjoy listening to stories as he or she learns to read.
- Talk to other parents about the stories their child enjoys and share what works for them.

Tip 2 — Reading at the right level

Many young children struggle with reading because they are introduced to books that are too hard for them. Every child develops at their own speed, so try to be patient, choosing stories that give the right level of challenge.

- Encourage your child to choose the book they want to read - books with pictures really do help with a child's confidence.
- Read harder books to them if they want to hear more complex stories, but let them read the easy bits
- Read their favourite book over and over again! Repetition helps them learn new words.
- Children often learn stories and rhymes by heart. When reading children rely a lot on memory when really they have remembered the pattern of the story. This is not cheating. It shows that your child is on their way to becoming a reader as they are making the connection between print and story.



Tip 3 — Make a regular time together

Creating a regular special time to read together can help younger children see the magical world that can be unlocked by the opening of a book, comic or magazine and learn to love the time when they have your undivided attention.

- Build a regular story time into your bedtime routine
- Switch off the TV and mobile phone to read with them. Resist the urge to tidy their room or do the washing up and give them your time to sit and read together.
- Tell your child about a book that you liked when you were a child. You may still be able to find a copy of it!
- Make up a story or tell them about something that happened to you as a child; remember you don't always need a good book to tell a good story.
- Read a book to your child that they know well, miss out words and encourage them to fill in the blanks.
- Sing nursery rhymes and songs together.



Tip 4 - Take time to listen, listen, listen

At the end of a busy day it can be easy to rush reading too, often reading the words for your child to hurry along. Try to take time to really 'tune in' to what your child is saying; slowing down to listen to them without interrupting will help them see that you value what they have to say.

- Listen with your eyes as well as your ears - giving them your full attention as they talk or read to you.
- Take turns to read parts of the story.

Tip 5 — Strike a balance between perfection and correction

As your child begins to grow in confidence in reading they are still bound to make mistakes. Get into the habit of praising them for all the words they get right and not just focus on the ones they are struggling with. At the same time, try to recognise any patterns in the ones they do get wrong and think about the best way to correct mistakes.

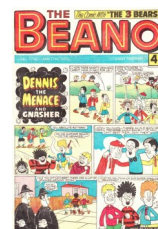
- Praise them for the words they get right – it really works wonders!
- Look out for things that will motivate your child to read – instructions for how to enter a competition, make a model or scanning a TV listing to discover when a favourite TV show is on.



Tip 6 — Talk about what you have read

Talking about what you have just read together really helps children think about what they have read, boosts their imagination and grows their confidence. It's also a good way to pick up on new words and check that they understand what they have just read.

- Get your child to think of questions they can ask you to test if you are listening!
- Ask them how they think a particular character in a story might be feeling, you can get them looking at people's faces to start!
- Ask them what they would do if they were in the story, or what they think might happen next. These questions encourage your child to answer more than yes or no.



Tip 7 — Enjoy reading everywhere

It doesn't always have to be a book. Every day there are lots of opportunities for you to encourage your child to get reading.

- Go online together and read and print off a webpage that interests them.
- Carrying a book or comic in your bag to share when you are out and about.
- Encourage them to read simple traffic signs, adverts, cereal packets, simple news headlines, DVD covers or film reviews.



Tip 8 — Think outside the book!

Never before have children had such access to a range of wonderful creative story and picture books, websites, applications, audio books and mobile devices. E-readers and interactive books are now adding further to the wealth of exciting opportunities for children to read. However, children still need to crack the code by learning the basic building blocks for reading. As your children grow up ask them what they like to read and how they like to read them.

- Join the local library. Not only do they have access to a huge variety of free books, they also provide DVDs, audio books and even Internet access for a small charge.
- Make a simple book together with pictures they draw or photos they take and help them write a simple story alongside it. Remember that having fun talking, listening, telling stories and reading together will not only help your child learn to read but create memories that will last forever.

Phonics terms your child will learn at school.

Phoneme: The smallest unit of sound that is found within a word, for example a, d p

Grapheme: The spelling of the sound and how it is written down, for example sh,

Diagraph: Two letters that make one sound when read, for example oa, ee

Trigraphs: Three letters that make one sound, for example igh air

CVC: Stands for consonant, vowel, consonant. For example cat, pen

Segmenting is breaking up a word into its sounds such as dog d/o/g. Children need to be able to hear a whole word and say every sound that they hear

Blending : Putting the sounds together to read a word such as c/a/t. Children need to be able to hear the separate sounds in a word and then blend them together to say the whole word

Tricky words: Words that cannot easily be decoded such as the, was and said.

Useful websites

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk>

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com>

<http://www.ictgames.com>

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk>

<http://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login>
Bug club online books—passwords and usernames will come home later this week

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home>

