



Helping your child learn to read is one of the most important ways that you can help them with their education. Studies have shown that parental involvement is the key to a child succeeding. Children who read at home are much more likely to become a successful reader and go on to do well in other areas of learning.

Here are some tips for helping your child to become a skilled, confident and life-long reader.

Year 1

- Continue to enjoy bedtime stories together. More confident readers might start to want to share the reading with you, taking it in turns to read sentences or pages, but they will still love having this special time together with you.
- Try and make time to share your child's reading book with them everyday. Five or ten minutes will make a huge difference to their development. The books marked with a 'ph' are phonic scheme books. The books that your child is on will have been matched to their current level of phonic development. These phonic books will help them to practise sounding out unfamiliar words using what they know about sounds and letters. The other book that your child will bring home will have richer language and require a greater level of sight recognition.
- Encourage your child to say on sight common words such as 'the' and 'like' but support them in sounding out words that they don't recognise instantly e.g. 'thinking' or 'shark'
 - Encourage your child to pause at full stops!
- Ask them to find their favourite part of the book and talk to you about it. Why did they like it? Was it funny? Did they like the picture?
- Talk about who's good and who's bad in the story. What did they do that was kind or funny or naughty? Did the bad character get into trouble in the end? Did it serve them right?
- Support your child in making links between what they read and events in their own lives: 'This story is about a little girl who won't eat tomatoes! If you were going to write a book about what you won't eat, what food would you choose?'
- Can your child retell a story they've read in their own words? Sometimes they might need the pictures to help them, but as they become more confident they'll start to be able to retell stories from memory.