



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 2

- Continue to enjoy bedtime stories together. Even if your child is reading confidently, they will still enjoy this special one-to-one time with you.
- Try and make time to share one of your child's school reading books with them everyday. 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. Aim for a mixture of looking at both books throughout the course of a week!
- Can your child answer questions about what they've read? At this stage, most children will be able to answer questions that involve simply recalling information e.g. 'What was the dog's name?' but you could also support them in developing their ability to make inferences e.g. 'How do you think Bob felt when he had no-one to play with?'
- Encourage your child to read with expression, especially when they're reading sound effects or dialogue.
- Provide your child with a wide range of things to read but recognise that they may be beginning to develop particular genre preferences. Comics are popular as they feel like a treat and so are likely to be highly prized! As they're so visual, they are useful in attracting and supporting less confident readers. There's such a wide selection out there that there's sure to be something that will match everyone's interests.
- Help your child develop the ability to locate the right part of a book in order to answer a question. In fiction texts this may involve just flicking through the pages, but in non-fiction it will help them if you can teach them how to use the contents and index pages.
  - Help them to learn whether a text is 'fiction' or 'non-fiction'.