

## Tips for reading at home with your child



We all know the feeling...your child is tired and grumpy and maybe you are too, and the last thing everyone feels like is sitting down and reading together. However, a couple of little tips might help to make this daily practice more achievable.

Learning to read is a complex task and takes dedication and lots of time and practice. Here are some tips for reading at home with your child to make it a productive, positive and rewarding experience.

### **These few tips may help:**

**Make 10 minutes of daily reading, supporting your child as they read to you, non-negotiable. This will provide them with the best opportunity to develop their reading skills and confidence and through this practice, you will quickly notice the progress your child is making.**

### **Find the 'right time'**

The best time for reading with your child is when they have had a chance to rest after a busy day at school. Ideally it may be after a snack or bath or just after dinner when they are likely to be more relaxed. Finding a quiet space is ideal.

Bedtime is the time for you to read a story to your child so that you can model fluent reading and introduce new vocabulary and discuss the characters and events in the book.

### **Make reading sessions short**

It's ideal to give undivided attention when reading at home with your child. Short, daily sessions of about 10-20 minutes are so much better than a long session once a week. Repeat reading the same text each day for three to four days also fosters confidence and helps build reading fluency.

### **Don't immediately correct them**

When listening to your child read at home, allow them to try to work out unknown words, and don't immediately correct them if they don't know them. You could help by covering the ending of a long word, to see if they can read the main part of the word first, and then add the ending. Or, you can also ask if they can see a small word in the big word, and then add the other parts. Many words can be sounded out, but some cannot. Help them with irregular high frequency words such as *said*, *want* or *should*, as these can only be sounded out once children know all of the letter-sound correspondences in English, of which there are many. In this instance, if they don't know the word, tell them what it is and ask them to repeat it, and continue reading.

### **Support their vocabulary**

A good vocabulary and knowing the meanings of words is essential to understanding what is being read. Stop and discuss the meanings of any unknown words, and then read on.

**We hope these tips provide you with some ideas to make the daily reading practice a rewarding experience for both you and your child.**

## **The proven benefits of reading with your child**

Parents and carers who read aloud with children in a secure, safe and comfortable context motivate their children to read. When children share a book with someone who makes them feel special, the attitude that reading is pleasurable is transferred to other reading experiences.

### **Relationship building**

At the core of reading is a relationship and it is the bond between children and parents that is enhanced through reading together. It only takes ten minutes a day to build this relationship.

### **Children's reading improves**

The research is conclusive: When parents successfully support their children's literacy learning from an early age, everyone benefits. When teachers and parents work together to support children's reading and academic success, learning outcomes for all children improve.

### **Children read more**

Students who read with their parents are better prepared for school. They begin school with knowledge of book language and familiarity with concepts of print. They understand how books work and have many more exposures to text types and vocabulary.

### **Children's self-esteem improves**

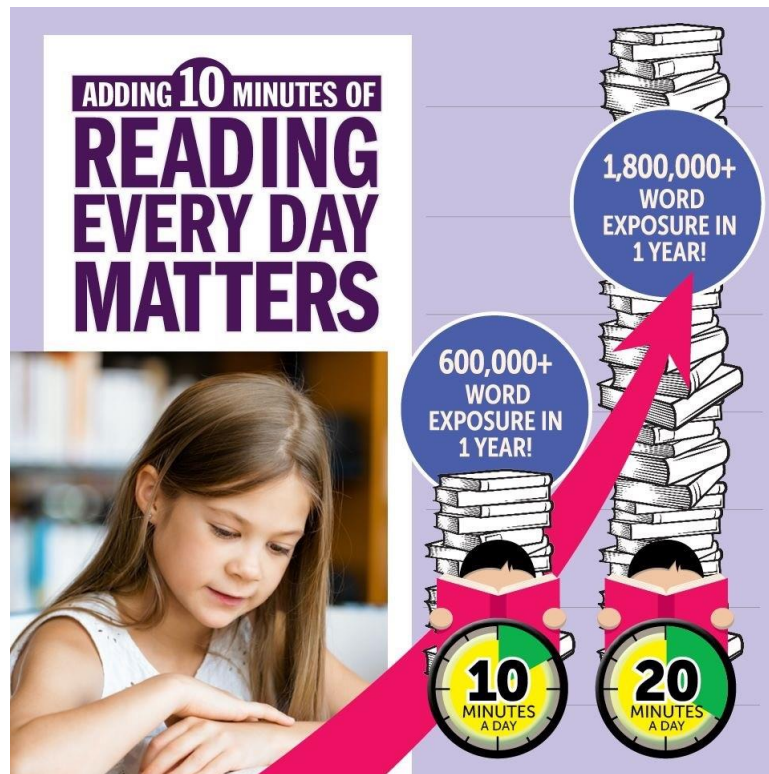
Knowing someone cares enough to take time out of a busy schedule to give you undivided attention around a book makes a significant difference to how students perceive themselves as learners and readers. When parents show an interest in their children's learning, children respond positively.

### **Reading unites families through shared stories**

When a family reads together, stories form a common ground for communicating. Stories bind families and help students make sense of where they fit in the world.

Not only does parent involvement have a specific and profound impact on children's reading, but also on children's language and literacy learning in general. It is through interactions with parents and carers that children learn new vocabulary, seek clarification of new understandings, and learn to comprehend their expanding worlds. Talk is the key to reading and writing success. Talking with children (walking to school, at the table, in the car, bedtime) has a significant effect on literacy learning in general.

Some information sourced from <https://www.readingrockets.org/article/reading-your-child>



If a child memorizes ten words, the child can read only ten words, but if a child learns the sounds of ten letters, the child will be able to read 350 three sound words, 4320 four sound words and 21,650 five sound words.

Dr Martin Kozloff (2002)