

Bridgeview Special School



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How to help your child with reading
Parent and Carer Guide

Why read?

Reading is one of the most important life skills a child can learn. A child that can read is able to access and understand the real world as an adult. Our vision is for all our Year 6 leavers are confident and able readers.

Whether your child chooses paper books, e-readers or comics, this booklet is to give you help, ideas and guidance when reading with your child at home.



Helping your child to become a confident reader is one of our main priorities at school. We would encourage parents and carers to read daily with their children to help them master this important skill.

Being a good reader will help your child throughout their adult life and give them the skills they will need to become lifelong learners. Without the ability to read, your child can not reach their full potential in life.

Help and support is always available for this and any other concerns you have.

Reading books with children

Try to take time every day to read with your child. The best way is little and often. 5 or 10 minutes a day is far better than one half an hour session each week. Try this when reading with your child:

- Discuss the front cover of the book. Predict what the book might be about and who the characters are.
- Read the blurb together. Is the book about what you thought? What do you think might happen?
- Stop half way through the story to discuss what has happened so far and what might happen next. Why do you think this?
- Ask questions about the characters and how they might feel in their situation.

Remember to give lots of praise for any reading and trying to answer questions!

Helping with tricky words and reluctant readers

Reading unknown and tricky words can be daunting, but there are some simple ways to help that the children are familiar with from school.

- Sound out the parts of the word that are unknown.
- Stretch out the word to hear the sounds clearer.
- Use the picture to work out what the word might be.
- If a child is reluctant to read, try taking turns to read pages with them.
- Use shared reading to help children who are struggling with reading. (Both parent and child read together. The parent stops when the child is growing in confidence).
- If a word is too hard, and these strategies aren't helping, just tell the child what it is.

Question ideas

We would still encourage parents of confident, fluent readers to read with their children or discuss with them the books they are currently reading on their own. Try these:

- What do you think this story is about?
- What has happened so far? What do you think will happen next? Can you suggest an alternative ending to the story?
- Who are the main characters? What is your opinion of them?
- What is your favourite part of the book?
- Why has the character done that? How does he feel?
- Whose point of view is the story written from? Do you agree with their point of view?
- How has the writer made the story funny/scary/sad?
- What kind of story is this? How do you know?
- Who do you think the book is aimed at? Why?



The school subscribes to Lexia Reading Core 5, an online reading intervention software to boost your child's word reading and comprehension. This is free to access at home, either on a laptop or the tablet app.

Go to <http://www.lexiacore5.com/> and type in the following login details:

username: _____

password: _____