

Westfields Infant School



Reading Support 2025 - 2026



How can I support my child with reading at home?



- Encourage your child to sound out the words. Let children have time to attempt words they are unsure of before you give them the word. Help them to get the initial sound or try breaking the word into smaller sections. If your child is struggling, give them the word but encourage them to reread the sentence correctly to reinforce the new word they have learnt and hear themselves successfully reading the new sentence.
- If they struggle to read a word after trying to sound it out, miss that word out, get your child to read to the full stop and see if they can work out what the word is now they have the full sentence.
- If it is a longer word, break the word up into syllables, read these then blend it together e.g. bum-ble-bee = bumblebee
- If they still struggle to read the word, then read it for them but get them to repeat the word. 'My turn your turn'
- Use a lolly stick or end of a pencil/pen or finger to follow the words if they keep losing their place and this can also be used to support with building fluency (reading speed).
- Get them to read it to you with expression, using a 'storyteller's voice'.
- Read the tricky words in the text first, using 'My turn your turn' before reading the story.
- Widen their vocabulary by discussing the meaning of (and alternatives for) new words your child finds in their reading book.
- Talk with your children about what they have read and about stories you are reading with them.
- Make up stories together verbally (maybe on the way to school or before bedtime)

Remember...good readers become good writers!



Top Tips



⇒ **Tip 1:** Make regular time together

Creating a regular 'special time' to read together can help children develop positive attitudes towards reading (especially when they have your undivided attention). Why not try:

- * including regular story time into bedtime routines;
- * sharing your favourite stories from when you were younger;
- * making up stories;
- * reading to your child as well as hearing them read.

⇒ **Tip 2:** Strike a balance between perfection and correction

Focus on praise for all of the words your gets right – not focussing too much on the ones they struggle with. Why not try:

- * making a mental note of words often read incorrectly and focus on these before reading;
- * coming back to tricky words at the end of reading so you don't disrupt the flow or focus.

⇒ **Tip 3:** Talk about what you have both read

Talking develops vocabulary, imagination and confidence. Why not try:

- * getting your child to think of questions they can ask you to test if you've been listening;
- * asking how a particular character might be feeling;
- * making predictions together about what will happen next or how a story will end.

⇒ **Tip 4:** Enjoy reading everywhere!

Find different, fun places to read. Remember, you don't always have to read books. There are so many everyday opportunities to encourage your child to get reading. Why not try:

- * getting magazines about topics they enjoy;
- * encouraging them to read everything and anything (traffic signs, cereal packets, appropriate news headlines...);
- * audio books in the car or at home;
- * going online together to read about a subject that interests them.

Fun activities to encourage confident readers

Mirror Messages

Write a message to your child on the mirror in the bathroom. When it next steams up, they can read their special message. This works particularly well for new spellings, or when if you introduce a new word of the week.

Fastest Finger First

With a short section of writing or a page of a book, challenge children to find a word before their friend/sibling e.g. First person to find the word 'dragged,' or a word beginning with 'st', or a word that means the same as 'big.' This works brilliantly with learning 'tricky' words too!

Keep Up!

To practise reading at speed, run your finger along each line of the book and ask your child to read aloud to you, keeping up with your finger. As your child gets quicker at doing this, so does your finger!

Model a love of reading

How you can help model a love of reading with your child by letting children see that you value books; seeing adults enjoying reading from books, newspapers, magazines, recipes or menus will make children want to read themselves.

What can you read?

Children learn from the world around them and from seeing labels, notices and signs which are written in print. Encourage children to look for words they know all around them. Practise the sounds of language – read books with rhymes. Teach your child rhymes, short poems and songs. Play simple word games e.g. How many words can you make up that sound like the word cat?

Funny Voices - 'Storyteller's voice'

Read books together using funny voices, particularly putting in funny voices for different characters.

Tricky Word Games

Write 'tricky' words on paper and place them around the house or garden. Ask children to find 'the' or find 'they' calling out the different 'tricky' words. They could even point to the word as you say it.

If you have made or bought phonics flashcards to use at home, below are some videos modelling great games to play with your child to support them with their reading.

How to use phonics flashcards



How to play: Change it!



How to play: Mix it up



How to play: Win it!



Example questions to ask your child during reading:

Vocabulary Questions with Victor

- Can you find a word/sentence that tells/shows you that...?
- Why do you think that the author used the word... to describe...?
- Can you find a word in the text that means the same as...?
- Find an adjective in the text



Inference Questions with Iggy

- What do you think.... means? Why do you think that?
- Why do you think...?
- How do you think...?
- When do you think...?
- Where do you think...?
- How has the author made us think that...?



Retrieval Questions with Rex

- Who is/are the main character(s)?
- When/where is this story set?
- Which is your favourite/worst/funniest/scariest part of the story? Why?
- Tell me three facts you have learnt from the text.
- Find the part where...



Sequencing Questions with Suki

- What happens in the beginning of the story?
- How/where does the story start?
- What happened at the end of the...?
- Can you retell the story to me in 20 words or less?
- What happened before that?



Prediction Questions with Pip

- Where do you think.... will go next?
- What do you think... will say / do next?
- What do you think this book will be about? Why?
- How do you think that this will end?
- Who do you think has done it?
- What might.... say about that?



Reading Websites

www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk is a perfect website if you want to sample a chapter from a book, or just for children to dip into a range of different genres.

www.dkfindout.com/uk is a great non-fiction website where children can enjoy finding out facts depending on their interests.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zgkw2hv> provides phonics games, alphabet letters and comprehension games to practise reading skills.

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/letters-and-sounds> has many fun games to practise reading skills.

Other good websites:

<https://www.phonicsbloom.com>

http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html

www.literacytrust.org.uk

www.love2read.co.uk

Don't forget about reading other media:

- Collins Hub - access to more Little Wandle books at your child's level set by their class teacher. Login details are in your child's reading record
- Audio books
- First News—A real fortnightly newspaper for children
- Magazines e.g. Eco Kids Planet, National Geographic, Beano
- Online material e.g. stories on the i-pad or your phone (with parental controls activated)

Phonics videos from Little Wandle

Phase 2 sounds taught in
Reception Autumn 1



Phase 3 sounds taught in
Reception Autumn 2



Phase 3 sounds taught in
Reception Spring 1



How to say Phase 5
sounds



How we teach tricky
words



How we teach
blending



Little Wandle Parent
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