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READING: LEARNING AT HOME

MORE READING IDEAS

Reading together

When you are reading with your child:

- have them look at the pictures in the book to give them an idea of what the story might be about
- talk about what is happening in the story and in the pictures
- point out key words in the story and explain words they might not know
- encourage them to join in with rhyming words or phrases repeated throughout the story
- stop and ask: *What do you think will happen next?* and *What makes you think that?* – accept their answers, even if they aren't quite right
- ask them about events and characters in the book
- talk about the story or get them to retell the story in their words when you finish reading – this helps them recognise the beginning, middle and end of the story
- answer their questions even if they interrupt the flow of the story – remember, you asked for their opinions!

It's really important to give your child lots of praise when they are learning to read. Praise them when they try to read a book. Avoid criticising if they get something wrong, even if it seems easy to you. Some children need lots of practise and encouragement.

There are lots of things to read including nursery rhymes; story books; non-fiction books; books on dinosaurs and pets; books you make together; funny stories and poems; joke books; websites and CD books; comic books; newspapers, catalogues and magazines; recipe books; street maps; and dictionaries.

Reading techniques

- When your child comes to a word they don't know, encourage them to look at the letters of the word and get them to attempt to sound out all or parts of the word – give them time to do this.
- If you think your child knows a word, ask them to go back to the beginning of the sentence and have another try. Sometimes this helps to give them an idea of the word, by listening to the rest of the story.
- If you don't think your child knows a word, say it for them and then encourage them to continue reading.
- At the end of the story, go back to the words your child didn't know and help them work out what they are.

Children who enjoy reading at home are more likely to be successful in early reading activities at school.



Department of
Education

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