

How to help your child with reading



Creating a love of reading in children is one of the most powerful ways of improving their success in school and in the wider world. At Galleywood Infant School we aim to develop fluent, confident readers who have a real love for books.



To help your child make progress in reading you can:

- Ensure they have access to books, magazines and newspapers from home, school and the library
- Find somewhere quiet to read together without distractions
- Make time every day to share a book together
- Read to them and take turns with reading a section each of the text
- Talk to them about the books they have read and how the illustrations support the story
- Draw their attention to print in the environment e.g. shop and road signs

Learning to read- Phonics

Each word that we say and read is made up of separate sounds; we call these individual sounds *phonemes*. Each child will learn the phonemes used in the English language through daily *phonics* sessions at school. We use the process of *synthesis* to teach children how to blend the separate sounds together to build a word, e.g. c-a-t =cat, f-l--igh-t = flight.

When reading at home you should encourage your child to use the process of *synthesis* to blend the sounds in unfamiliar words. You can help them to recognise the sounds that each letter makes and remind them how to pronounce each sound correctly. It is important to remember that each sound is short and sharp e.g. s-u-n not suh-uh-ner!

To support your child with phonics you could:

- Play oral blending games at home e.g. Can you bring me a c-u-p? Can you feed the d-o-g?
- Use BugClub to practise decoding. The bug points are often earned through word building activities.
- Visit www.teachyourmonstertoread.com
- If you are unsure how to pronounce each sound correctly visit <http://www.mrthorne.com/> for video demonstrations



Learning to read- high frequency words

Some words are not phonically decodable and have to be learnt by sight; we call these **sight words**. Having a repertoire of known, commonly used words will help your child's reading flow. Foundation Stage and Year 1 children have sets of sight words in the back of their reading records to practise with you at home. Be careful to not always teach the words in the same order as some children might be remembering them by rote rather than by sight! To make the learning of sight words more engaging you could make some sight word cards and try:

- Playing sight word snap
- Spot the sight word around the home
- Put some stickers with sight words on plastic bottles and play sight word skittles
- Visit http://www.familylearning.org.uk/sight_word_games.html for interactive games
- Sight word pairs
- Practise looking for a tricky sight word in a favourite bedtime story.



Learning to read- comprehension

A child who can read fluently does not necessarily understand everything they have read. In order to check your child's level of understanding it is important to talk about the book as you are reading and to ask thought provoking questions, such as:

- What do you think this book might be about? Is it fiction or non-fiction? How do you know?
- I wonder what will happen next! What do you think?
- Why do you think the character said/did that?
- What happened in the beginning, middle and end?
- Which 3 words would you choose to describe this character? Why?
- Do you think this character is a good or bad character? How do you know?
- Does this remind you of any other stories you have read? It reminds me of...
- Can you find some information about...?

