

Activities to try at home

- Organise a treasure hunt around the house on a rainy day. Give your child a list of things that they can find in the house and see how quickly they can collect them.
- Read the labels of items when out shopping.
- Read familiar signs e.g. of shops, fast-food outlets, TV programme logos such as CBeebies.
- Create a monster dictionary by making up names of frightening monsters that begin with different letters of the alphabet. Ask your child to draw a picture of each one.
- Encourage your child to draw pictures and make up stories about them.
- Most of all—making reading a fun experience with a purpose



The Reading Journey

5 - 7



A few handy hints to support your child's reading experiences. A helpful booklet aimed to support children aged 5 to 7 years old.

The act of reading is a life long skill that is the very foundation to ALL learning and the key to most of life's experiences.

How to encourage your child to read

- ♦ **Read yourself!** Set a good example by sharing your reading. Let your children see that you value books and keep them at home.
- ♦ **Keep your books safe!** Make your child their own special place to keep their books in their bedrooms. Show them how to turn pages carefully.
- ♦ **Visit the library!** It's free to join. All libraries have children's sections. Many also have regular story telling sessions.
- ♦ **Point out words all around you!** Help your child to read the words around them; on food packets in the supermarket, on buses, in newspapers, in recipes.
- ♦ **Make time to read!** Read a bedtime story with your child every night. Encourage them to share reading with grandparents, brothers, sisters and aunts and uncles.
- ♦ **Keep in touch with the school!** Make sure your child swaps their home reading books regularly and try to make a regular 10 minute time slot for reading.

How to help with reading

- ♦ **Be positive!** Praise your child for trying hard at their reading. Let them know it's alright to make mistakes.
- ♦ **Give them time!** Let them make a guess before you tell them the word. Help them to get the first sound or try breaking the word up into smaller sections.
- ♦ **Turn off the TV!** It's easier for your child to concentrate if there are no distractions.
- ♦ **Point with your finger!** Encourage them to follow the words with their finger.
- ♦ **Don't make them try too hard!** It doesn't matter if you have to tell them the word sometimes.
- ♦ **Ask lots of questions about the story!** Check they understand the story by asking them questions about what happens. Use the pictures to explain what is happening.
- ♦ **Let them read their favourites!** It's good to practise to read the same books over and over again.
- ♦ **Don't read for too long!** A quality 10 minutes is better than a difficult half hour.