
MONKTON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Home-School Reading



Whilst at Monkton Park Primary School your child will bring reading books home to practise his/her reading. He/she will bring a scheme book as well as a library book to share.

In the process of developing reading skills, your child will need encouragement and support from teachers and parents. This booklet aims to help you and your child develop home/school reading activities to the full.



Take your child on trips and point things of interest out to him/her.

Teach your child how to take care of books.



CHILDREN NEED TO APPRECIATE THE PLEASURE READING CAN BRING

You can help your child by:

- Ensuring your child develops a positive attitude to books and reading.
- Being a role model – let your child see you reading.
- Make sure books are accessible to your child with plenty of books at home.
- Spend time talking about books with your child.

Reading is a developing skill and children will develop at different rates.

Whatever stage of reading your child has reached, it is important that he/she is able to experience reading to someone.

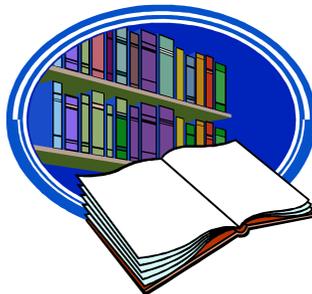
Remember! Reading is for life. It is not a competition nor a race. Reading is not about getting through a book to have a new one.



When your child brings a book home to read:

DO

- Make reading an enjoyable and relaxed activity.
- Be positive about your child's reading, praise him/her if he/she does well, help and encourage him/her if the book is difficult, so that he/she always feels reading is a successful activity.
- Choose a time that suite you both, when neither of you are rushing to get finished in order to do something else.
- Choose a place to read that is away from noise, interruptions and distractions.
- Find time to talk about the book as well as reading it. Discuss whether you both liked the book and why.
- Feel free to read other books with your child as well as the books he/she brings home from school. Remember, the harder the book, the more help he/she will need.
- Please make sure your child has his/her book in school to read to the teacher.
- Please take care of the books your child brings home, paperbacks are particularly delicate.
- Please ask to see the teacher if there are any problems, or if you are worried about y our child's progress.
- Please explain this approach to any other adult to whom your child may read out of school so that all the good work is not undone.



DON'T

- Bring competitiveness and comparisons with other children into your child's reading.
- Make reading a tense activity; if you are tense or pressed for time, you will communicate this to your child.
- Offer bribes or rewards for finishing a book as this will only encourage competitiveness among the children. Children will only move onto another book when they are ready.
- Expect your child to remember every word he has read before.
- Worry if your child occasionally misreads a word that does not affect the meaning, e.g. mum for mother, lady for woman.
- Say to your child "you have had that book before" if he/she brings home a book he/she has read before. There is probably a good reason why he/she is reading it again, but if you are worried, ask to see the teacher.
- Worry if your child brings home a book which is too hard for him/her. It may be a story he/she really likes and will need some help from you to read.
- Worry if your child brings home a book which is too easy for him/her, he/she may need it as a confidence boost after a harder book, or he/she may simply enjoy the story.
- Compare him/her with siblings or friends. Encourage him/her to compete with himself/herself and not others.

If your child makes mistakes when reading to you, encourage him/her to guess what the word might be by reading the phrase immediately before and after the word. Perhaps the picture can give a clue, or the first letter of the word. If you are in doubt tell him/her the word. Also look for patterns within words.

If your child is reluctant to read, remember that praise and encouragement are important. Sometimes your child will want to re-read a book, this is fine.

However well your child reads, do keep reading with him/her. When you read aloud you enrich your child's life, whatever reading age or ability.

To record your child's reading, a Home/School Contact Book is used. Please ensure that you sign and date the book every time you listen to your child read and add any comments.

Finally, make reading as enjoyable an activity as you can. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher should you or your child have any worries or comments to make.



TALK TO YOUR CHILD

The more words he/she uses naturally in everyday conversation, the more words will have meaning when seen on the printed page.



LISTEN TO YOUR CHILD



Children must have opportunities to express themselves. Encourage your child to tell you about the things he/she has seen or done. The more a child talks the better he/she is likely to read. Listen to your child when he/she has something to tell you. Don't be put off because you are too busy. If he/she wants to share an experience with you, allow the time for this.

READ TO YOUR CHILD



Children enjoy hearing stories read out loud. Use expression and model good reading. Children who are read to will usually be keen to learn to read to for themselves.

PRAISE YOUR CHILD



Don't forget to praise your child when he/she succeeds.

TAKE YOUR CHILD TO THE LIBRARY



Let your child choose books that they think are easy enough for them to understand.

BUILD A READING ATMOSPHERE AT HOME



Have books, magazines, newspapers around the house. Let children see what use you make of books.