



Newtown Primary School

Supporting Reading at Home: A Guide for Parents

Reading at home helps children grow into confident, happy readers. This short guide shares simple, practical ideas to help you support your child's reading at home, while making it enjoyable and meaningful.

Why Reading at Home Matters

Reading together every day, even for a short time, makes a big difference.

- Builds language, vocabulary, and understanding of the world
- Supports success across all areas of learning
- Develops concentration, imagination, and confidence
- Encourages a lifelong love of reading



How Parents Can Support Reading at Home

1. Read Little and Often

- Aim to read together every day, even for 5–10 minutes
- Choose a quiet, comfortable place with minimal distractions
- Make reading part of a regular routine (e.g. bedtime)

EYFS link: Supports *Communication and Language* and *Literacy* (Comprehension and Word Reading)

2. Read Together

- Take turns reading words, sentences, or pages
- Read aloud to your child – this models fluent, expressive reading
- Encourage your child to join in with repeated phrases or familiar words

National Curriculum link: Develops fluency, accuracy, and understanding



3. Talk About the Book

Talking about books is just as important as reading the words.

Simple Questions to Ask:

- *Before reading:*
 - What do you think this book might be about?
 - What can you see on the cover?
- *During reading:*
 - What is happening here?
 - How do you think the character feels? Why?
 - What do you think will happen next?
- *After reading:*
 - What was your favourite part?
 - Why did you like/dislike the story?
 - Can you retell the story in your own words?

EYFS & National Curriculum link: Supports comprehension, inference, prediction, and speaking skills

4. Encourage Reading for Pleasure

- Let your child choose books that interest them
- Read a wide range of texts: stories, poems, non-fiction, comics, recipes, signs
- Visit the library together and talk about books
- Show that adults enjoy reading too

EYFS link: Promotes positive attitudes towards learning and literacy



5. Praise and Encourage

- Praise effort, not just accuracy
- Encourage your child to sound out words independently
- Be patient and supportive – mistakes are part of learning

National Curriculum link: Builds confidence and resilience as a reader

How This Links to School Learning

EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage)

Reading at home supports:

- Listening and attention
- Understanding and vocabulary
- Word reading and comprehension
- Love of stories, rhymes, and books

National Curriculum (Key Stage 1 and beyond)

Reading at home supports:

- Phonics and decoding skills
- Reading fluency and expression
- Understanding, discussing, and explaining texts
- Developing a lifelong enjoyment of reading

A Final Message for Parents

- You do not need to be an expert reader to support your child. Your time, encouragement, and enthusiasm make the biggest difference. Enjoy reading together and make it a positive, shared experience.