

St. Elizabeth's Primary School



Helping Your Child With Reading



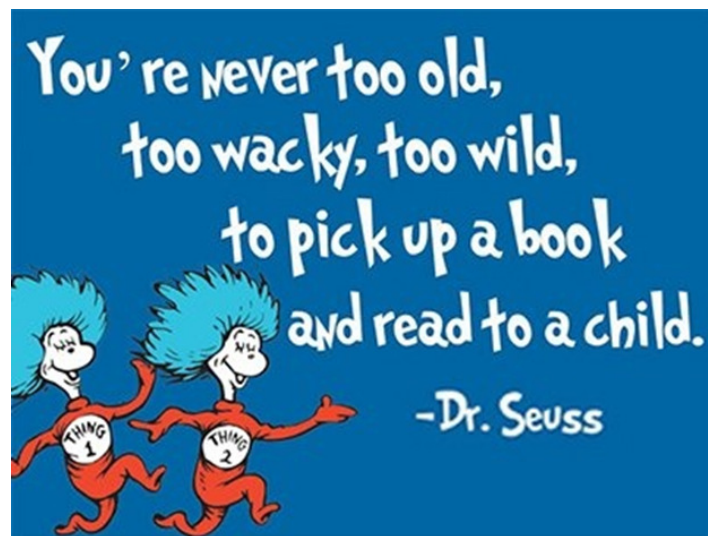
A Guide for Parents

Helping Your Child With Reading

As parents, we all want our children to have the best start in life. Reading is a fundamental life skill enabling children to develop their speaking, listening, reading and writing for a wide range of purposes. It is such an important skill in which parents can give help at home, especially in the early stages.



This booklet is intended as a guide for parents. It will tell you how you can help and especially how to encourage a love of books.



Let your child see you reading, browsing and borrowing books from the library, reading magazines and newspapers. Let your child see you gain pleasure from reading.

Encourage your child to be familiar with books, to handle them and to look at the pictures. Allow your child to develop their own personal library at home as they grow.

Many parents and children enjoy bedtime stories together. Continue to do this for as long as your child wants to. Make it a happy and comfortable time, even if it only lasts a few minutes! Remember story time does not only have to happen at bedtime.



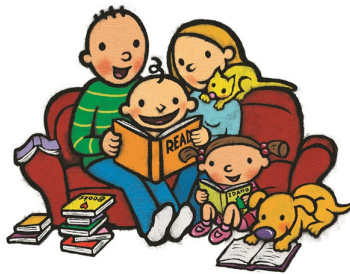
Your time is the most precious gift you can give to your child. Spend time looking at books with them, take them to the local library and to book shops.

Attitudes to children's reading have changed much over the years, as have many aspects of Education. Modern reading books are short and well-illustrated. This is to give the child the satisfaction of reading a whole book in a short time, rather than a lengthy book over many days, which is both tedious and discouraging.

When your child brings a book home from school, do not expect them to know all the words. Much of early learning is memorising.

Children are not always happy to read books over and over again. Rather than making them do this try reading a sentence or page each.

In the early stages of your child's reading it is more valuable for your child to understand the storyline, than to be able to read every word. Do not waste time while your child struggles to sound out a word. Tell your child the word and continue with the reading. Your child's main concern is to find out what happens! There is plenty of repetition in children's books so that children soon learn unknown words.



At first your child may not be able to pick out individual words don't worry.

NEVER push your child with reading, it is a very delicate area. Your child can benefit more by reading a few easier books for a change or more books at the one level, than being pushed rapidly on. **Don't** compare your child's reading to another child in the class. All children progress at their own rate. **Don't** try and rush your child through the reading scheme onto the next level. It is much more important to consolidate their reading.

Your own attitude to reading can help to create a relaxed atmosphere in which your child can learn and progress.

If your child chooses a library book which is too hard for them, never try and put them off choosing it. Instead you or another family member can read it to them.



Make good use of the illustrations. Talk about the picture before, during or after reading the book. If your child wants to spend time looking at the pictures, don't rush them on to read the words. This is all part of the reading process. Your child will be looking at the picture as clues to the text.

If your child cannot read a word, but there is a picture of it on the page, try pointing at the picture, and this will help them in reading the word. If not, say the word and point to it in the text.



If you feel there is a problem or there is something you do not understand, come into school and ask. By working together we can all achieve the best for your child. Your child's learning is a partnership between school and home.

