

Reading comprehension questions

You can help your child to understand what they're reading (reading comprehension) by asking them questions about what they've read and about what might happen next in the text. Here are some examples of the types of questions you might want to ask them during or after they've read with you:

- *Do you like this character? Why / why not?*
- *Which words best describe that character?*
- *How do you think that character felt when...?*
- *How did the story make you feel? Why?*
- *Where is this book set? How do you know?*
- *When do you think this story happened? Why do you think that?*
- *What do you think might happen next?*
- *Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why / why not?*

Help, I'm stuck!

Your child will inevitably make mistakes when they're reading and there will be times when they feel like giving up (we all feel like this when we're learning a new skill). Be patient and persevere. Speak to your child's teacher; they have lots of helpful tips they can share with you.



Reading at Home

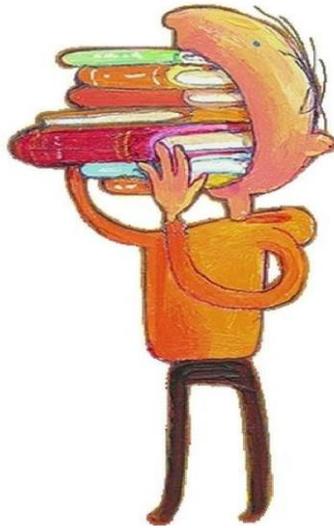
Supporting children with their reading:
a guide for parents and carers.



Introduction

Learning to read is probably the most important part of your child's learning at primary school. Reading helps children to understand things, it enables them to express their feelings and it fires their imagination.

The more you can help your child learn to read, the more pleasure and fulfillment they will get from being able to read. This will enhance their entire primary school experience at Shaldon



Finding the time to read...

Your child will make accelerated progress with their reading if you **find the time to read with them every day** (for about 10 minutes).

Find a comfortable place to read with your child. Encourage them to read the text but do not put too much pressure on them; you can always read to them or try again at another time (see the alternative ways to read with your child on the next page).

They will also benefit from seeing you read. When you read you are showing them that reading matters and that it is something that brings *you* a lot of pleasure.

Do I have to just sit there and listen to them read?

No. There are lots of different ways you can read with your child. Here are just a few ideas:

- You could read to them, asking them questions about what's happening (see example questions on the back page);
- Paired reading – both of you read out loud together. Encourage your child to follow where you are in the text and read as much as they can;
- Shared reading – take it in turns to read parts of the text and ask questions about likes and dislikes / thoughts and opinions;

Important points to remember:

- ✓ Reading is an enjoyable thing to do - try to make it an enjoyable experience and your child will want to read again and again;
- ✓ Allow your child to join in with your reading activities: reading letters, newspapers, television listings and recipes etc;
- ✓ Aim to read with your child every day, for at least 10 minutes.
- ✓ When trying to decode new words, encourage your child to, "Say the sounds and read the word."
- ✓ If they cannot yet decode the sound or word, just give the word. (In the early stages there is usually a sticker inside the book telling you which words may need to be given);
- ✓ When first learning to read, make sure your child re-reads the pages to build up accuracy and speed. Keep a book until your child can read it with confidence, accuracy, understanding and enjoyment; only then ask for a new one.