

6. Do not say the book is 'too easy' or 'too hard'. Children need a range of reading materials. Any 'easy' book helps them to relax with reading. A difficult book can be read to your child. Both are important.

7. If your child misreads a word without changing the meaning, e.g. 'Dad' for 'Father', accept it. If they hesitate, repeat a word or leave one out, say nothing provided the meaning is not lost. If they say a word which does change the meaning, or they are simply stuck, you can help them by:

- a. Pointing to the picture if it is relevant
- b. Asking a question to remind them of the context, e.g. 'Where did they say they were going?'
- c. Re-reading the sentence up to the unknown word to remind them of the context
- d. Saying or pointing to the first letter of the word
- e. Telling your child the word to avoid losing momentum
- f. If the word can be read easily by sounding out the letters, encourage them or help them to do this

After Reading

Talking about the book with your child at the end will help your child in their enjoyment and understanding of the book.

My child won't read, no matter what I do. How can I help?

- Read to your child as much as possible
- Don't make an issue out of it
- Talk to your child's class teacher, Working together will help

If English is not your family's first language:

You can buy dual language books. You can talk about books and stories in any language.



St Mary's CE VC Primary
School
Skilling Hill Rd Bridport
Dorset DT6 5LA

A school is four walls around the future

At St Mary's we aim to:

- create a happy environment where children can learn and develop
- encourage respect for each other and our communities
- prepare children to get the best out of life
- provide an enjoyable and valuable education
- discover how children can fulfil their potential.

We provide education within the context of Christian belief and practice. We encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promote Christian values. We believe in promoting understanding, tolerance and respect through a wide understanding of all faiths and beliefs

St Mary's has been at the heart of Bridport's community for over one hundred years!

Most of Bridport's parents were educated here. We have close links with all the community's organisations and services



Help

Parent Support
Leaflet
Helping your child to
read



Why is it important for my child to read?

The ability to read is vital. It builds self-confidence and opens up future learning at school and in life.

How will my child learn to read?

Learning to read does not happen all at once. It involves a series of stages that lead, over time, to independent reading and to fluency. The best time for children to start learning to read is when they are very young. This is when they are best able to start developing basic reading skills.

At St Mary's Primary School each child is expected to **read at home daily**, whether that is to an adult (for developing readers) or independently (for fluent readers). Each child will also engage in focussed teaching of reading in a small group with their teacher once a week. We call this **guided reading**. For those children who need extra support with their reading we have allocated Teaching Assistant support, use the valuable support of Parent Readers, and teachers allocate time to hear them read as necessary



Books for home reading are selected and monitored in a range of ways across the school depending on the age and ability of the children. In Reception and KS1, children work progressively through a scheme and are monitored by the class teacher.

Teachers aim to hear children **read individually in addition to the focussed guided reading session**. Teachers listen to less able readers more frequently, but make time to hear more able readers across the year. In addition to this, most classes have parent and/or teaching assistant support for reading. **Each child is heard to read individually, and participates in focussed group teaching once a week as part of guided reading**. This is not written in their reading records, but is recorded in teacher assessment files.

We have a range of books to support your child's reading within the school, and we hope this will enable your child to experience different authors and styles of books. In terms of reading, we want children to be able to



- ◆ Enjoy reading and see it as a pleasurable leisure activity, as well as a means of following instructions and finding things out
- ◆ to have access to a range of reading experiences:
- ◆ Have the reading skills necessary to read a range of text types for pleasure and for information

How can I help my child?

As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. Reading aloud to children is the best way to get them interested in reading. Spending time with word games, stories, and books will help your child.

Supporting Reading at Home

1. Find a place to sit together that suits you both
2. Try to read for at least 5 to 10 minutes a day and once over the weekend. Encourage it as a pleasurable experience.
3. Find some time to talk about the book as well as reading it.

Start with the title, look at the cover and briefly chat about what you might find inside.

At the bottom of each page, encourage your child to predict what might happen next.

If your child gets stuck, ask what word would fit best, ask them to sound it out (if appropriate), or simply supply the word yourself.

What happened in the story? Does this remind them of anything in their lives or anything they have read before?

Did they think the book was funny? Did they spot any interesting words and phrases? Did they enjoy the book?

4. Read to your child. You can help your child to understand the emphasis of particular parts of the story.

5. Encourage your child to retell the story you have just shared. This will give you an idea of how much they have understood.