



As a community we grow and learn together to achieve our ambitions



READING AT HOME

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What is reading?

Reading is the ability to identify the written characters of text. It is the way to understand the information written in print. Reading is about listening and understanding as well as working out what's printed on the page

The process of reading includes:

1. **Word recognition:** To be able to recognise and say the written letters, symbols, words, sentences in print.
2. **Comprehension:** To understand the meaning of the written words and sentences.
3. **Fluency:** Word recognition and comprehension working together after a lot of practice to make reading quicker, more accurate and expressive.

Reading is an essential life skill

Why is it important for my child to read?

Being able to read is vital. Reading is essential not only in education, but in the world where so much communication takes place digitally, over email and text-based messaging systems. Because of this, the ability to read for comprehension and to communicate effectively is vital and needs to be taught and encouraged from a young age. It paves the way to success in school, which can build self-confidence and motivate your child to set high expectations for life. Beyond that, reading for pleasure provides a wealth of benefits for children as they go through school and into adulthood.

People read for many reasons:

- for pleasure and interest
- for work
- to obtain information that will help them make choices and decisions
- to understand directions (such as those on street signs and in recipe books)
- to learn about the world
- to keep in touch with family and friends

How can I help my child?

As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. When you help your child learn to read, you are opening the door to a world of books and learning. With the help of parents, children can learn how to read and can practise reading at home until they can read for their own enjoyment. Then they will have a whole world of information and knowledge at their fingertips!

Here are some simple suggestions you can use to help your child develop reading skills at home:

- Make sure that your children see you reading as much as possible. What you read is not important — when your child sees you reading recipes, magazines, newspapers, books, cereal packets, shopping lists, e-mails, texts and other reading materials, it will reinforce the importance of reading.
- To encourage reading, keep a variety of reading materials throughout the house. This will increase your child's access to books and printed material. Help them understand that reading doesn't only happen at school — it can happen anywhere. Studies suggest that learners who read outside of school are more successful readers and students.
- Reading can involve talking about the pictures in books, magazines, and newspapers with your child. Ask them to read aloud to you or to tell you about what they have read in their own words.
- Visit the library often and take advantage of the resources offered there. You can get a library card and borrow books from the library for free! Make sure to get your children their own library cards and ask a librarian for help if you don't know how to sign up for one.
- Try switching off distractions e.g. televisions, computers, phones etc while your reading in the home.
- As your child is reading, talk about what he/she is reading. When your child finishes a new story or piece of reading material, discuss the main ideas, new words and concepts, and your child's favourite section. This will help strengthen your child's reading comprehension skills.

By taking these steps in your home, you will not only encourage your children to read — you will help them succeed in the classroom and beyond!

What are some of the benefits of reading?

1. Children who read often and widely get better at it

After all, practice makes perfect in almost everything humans do, and reading is no different.

2. Reading exercises our brain

Reading is a much more complex task for the human brain rather than watching TV or playing computer games, for example. Reading strengthens brain connections and builds NEW connections.

3. Reading improves concentration

Children have to sit still and quietly so that they can focus on the story when they are reading. If they read often, they will develop the skill to do this for longer.

4. Reading teaches children about the world around them

Through reading a variety of books children learn about People, places and events outside of their own experiences.

5. Reading improves vocabulary and language skills

Children learn new words as they read. Subconsciously, they absorb information on how to structure sentences and how to use words and other language features effectively in their writing and speaking.

6. Reading develops a child's imagination

As we read our brain translates the descriptions we read of people, places and things into pictures. While we are engaged in a story, we are also imagining how a character is feeling. Children then bring this knowledge into their everyday play.

7. Reading helps children to develop empathy

As children develop, they begin to imagine how they would feel in that situation.

8. Reading is fun

A book or an e-reader doesn't take up much space and is light to carry, so you can take it anywhere so you can never be bored if you have a book in your bag.

9. Reading is a great way to spend time together

Reading together at home or visiting the library are just some ways of spending time together

10. Children who read achieve better at school

Reading promotes achievement in all subjects, not just English, children who are good readers tend to achieve better across all subjects in the curriculum.