



Helping your child to be a successful reader

Reading develops the mind. Understanding the written word is one way the mind grows in its ability. Teaching young children to read helps them develop their language skills. It also helps them learn to listen.

Some tips and strategies

- Read **to** your child. Your child must see the text and be encouraged to follow your reading.
- Read **for** your child what they can't read for themselves.
- Read **with** your child to provide **support** and **confidence**.
- Allow rehearsal time **before** oral reading.
- Read **to** your child, leaving out predictable words for your child to provide.
- Allow for “**read it again**” of favourite books.
- **Encourage** attempts/approximations with unfamiliar words.
- Encourage your child to **ask** questions.
- Talk informally about letters/sounds in the **context** of a word.
- Discuss and explore **words/meanings** of phrases.
- Assist your child reader to **predict**: particular words, the contents, possible outcome.
- Ask your child to read alone and then **retell** what has been read. Ask questions to further develop/clarify understanding.
- **Discuss the text, not your child's reading behaviour.**
- Provide a **variety of materials** (fiction, non-fiction, magazines, brochures, catalogues).
- **Connect** reading to family experiences (specific books about topic or places).
- **Talk** about what is read; ask questions.
- Allow your child to **select** materials with parental guidance.
- Be a good **model** of reading yourself. Talk about your reading and its purpose (eg for information, leisure).
- Use the **school** or local **library**. SIDE has an excellent library of print and e-books. The staff provide good advice specifically for your child's needs. Phone, email or use their online catalogue. Or, contact your child's teacher and ask them to arrange for the SIDE Library to send you more resources.

