

## Step by Step

Children should enjoy sharing books with you. Learning to tell a story from a book with no words is a vital pre reading skill.

Encourage your children to respect books, turning pages carefully and storing them appropriately.

Use your finger as you read to your child to highlight the words you are reading. This teaches them that the text is read from left to right.

We use the Jolly Phonics scheme to teach the children letter sounds.

The Early Learning Centre produces a range of material to support this approach at home.

If your child shows an interest in letters please do not teach them the letter names so use c...a...t not see...ayyy...tee.

Jolly Phonics uses visual, auditory and kinaesthetic strategies to help your child learn.

Children will learn to read in many different ways, some will use phonics, others will rely on context and some children will recognise the shape of a word. All of these strategies will build together to help your child become fluent.

As soon as your child has the skills needed to read simple books they will be placed into a group for reading sessions in school. This allows them to learn with others, to share ideas and to discuss the books they are reading.

If you are asked to read specific pages with your child please do so. Reading less may hold back the group. Reading more may spoil a lesson on prediction skills.

Please return your child's book to school each day.

Children will reread books. This may be because we want them to focus on a different aspect of reading for example fluency or expression.

If you are concerned about your child's progress please talk to the class teacher. If we are concerned we WILL talk to you!

Enjoy your child reading to you and enjoy reading to them. They are precious times.



Hazelwood School  
Nursery and Early Years



## Reading With Your Child. Guidance for Parents

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## 1. Make reading time a special time

Establish a routine with your child so that they look forward to reading. Choose a favourite place, a comfy sofa is great, and snuggle in together to share a book.

## 2. Make reading enjoyable

Enjoy the time with your child; ensure that there are no distractions so you can focus on them 100%. There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Just as important is being able to understand and enjoy what has been read. Always talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end, their favourite part. You will then be able to see how well they have understood and you will help them to develop good comprehension skills.

## 3. Maintain the flow

If your child mispronounces a word do not correct them immediately. Allow them the opportunity to self-correct. If mispronounced words do not change the meaning of the story then don't feel you have to correct a child at all. If they are tired then read to them. Enjoyment is the most important aspect of reading.

## 4. Be positive

There is always something you can praise a child for, answering questions about the pictures, reading words with expression or tidying their book away at the end of a session! Always try to end with praise.

## 5. Success is the key

Parents anxious for a child to progress can mistakenly give a child a book that is too difficult. This can have the opposite effect to the one they are wanting. Remember 'Nothing succeeds like success'. Until your child has built up his or her confidence, it is better to keep to easier books. Struggling with a book with many unknown words is pointless. Flow is lost, text cannot be understood and children can easily become reluctant readers.

## 6. Use the pictures

Reading schemes are designed with colourful and appealing pictures which give children clues about the text. Don't cover the pictures up. They are there to help.

## 7. Regular practice

Try to read with your child every day. Make sure that you read to them as well as asking them to read to you. Make it your end of day treat.

## 8. Communicate

Your child will have a school reading diary. Use it to communicate regularly with positive comments and any concerns. Your child will then know that you are interested in their progress and that you value reading.

## 9. Act as a role model

Make sure that your children see you reading. This is particularly vital with boys who benefit immensely from seeing male role models read.

## 10. Variety is important

Remember children need to experience a variety of reading materials eg. picture books, hard backs, comics, magazines, poems, and information books.

## Once they are reading...

Try and maintain the routine, half an hour in bed, reading, before lights out is a wonderful way to end the day. Don't punish a child by taking away reading time.

Keep reading to them. Modelling expression and intonation will help to develop their skills.

Encourage them to read a range of books but don't worry if they become fixated by one author. They will, eventually, find other books that they enjoy. The school librarians are a wonderful source of help and guidance regardless of the age of your child.

Take them to libraries and book shops and stay with them whilst they choose a book.

Talk to your children about the books they are reading and the way they feel about them. Share your favourite books with them.

Read them a range of materials, poems, comics, nonfiction books and cereal packets!