

Northop Hall CP School



Help your child
with reading

Year Four

Key questions you can ask your child when reading a book, to help them reach their target:

- What words give you a picture in your mind?
- Describe the picture in your mind when you hear these words...
- What other words or phrases could the writer have used?
- Which words do you think are the most important? Why?
- What words do you like most? Why?
- What does the word 'X' tell you about 'Y' ?
- Find 2/3 ways that the writer tells you 'X' ?
- What does this...word/ phrase/ sentence... tell you about....?
- In the story, 'X' is mentioned a lot, Why?
- The writer uses words like ... to describe... What does this tell you about a character or setting?
- Explain why a character did something.
- What is similar/ different about two characters?

These
questions are
suggestions
that you may
like to use

TARGETS - Year Four

The following targets are intended to give you some idea of the things that your child should be able to do by the end of the year:

- Know the common sounds made by single, double and treble letters, e.g. c, ch, s, sh, t, th, sp, st, cr, dr, tr, sl, spr, thr
- Use their knowledge of sounds and of rhyme to read new or strange words.
- Recognise and create word families using rhyme.. e.g. plain, train, brain or fight, might, tight ...
- Recognise some grammatical parts of speech, e.g. 'naming words' (nouns) and 'describing words' (adjectives).
- Use full-stops, exclamation marks, question marks and capital letters effectively and correctly.
- Read a story they have not seen before fairly accurately.
- Read silently for about 10-15 minutes.
- Explain the plot of a story, discuss the characters and give an opinion on how good it is.
- Make use of non-fiction features, e.g. contents to scan, assess for relevance for intended purpose
- Identify the features of different types of text, e.g. newspaper reports, non-chronological reports, explanations, persuasion and ICT texts and use appropriate reading strategies, e.g. scrolling through an ICT text

CHOOSING THE RIGHT BOOK

Let them choose

Your child is far more likely to be interested in a book if he/she has chosen it by him/herself. The teacher will be able to help choose a book at school for reading at home, but you could also use books from the library, magazines, instructions for games, etc.

Too easy or too hard

Usually, the choice will be about right, but as a rough guide, you can check by using the five-finger test. Be aware that occasionally teachers may decide to push your child forward with a book that doesn't exactly meet this criterion, or consolidate at a slightly lower challenge to improve comprehension.

What to do if a book is too difficult

If your child chose the book he/she is probably interested in it so don't just send the book straight back to school. You might try the following:

- Talk about the pictures
- Read the book aloud
- Talk about what has happened in the book
- Comment in the reading record book

What to do if a book is too easy

Just carry on as normal - sometimes it is a good idea to read easy things because nothing is more encouraging than success. At the end of the book praise your child for reading well.



Use the five finger method

Choose a page to read. Each time you see a word you do not know, put up one finger.

When you finish reading, see how many fingers are raised.

- 1 finger - easy reading
- 2 fingers - easy reading
- 3 fingers - just right
- 4 fingers - challenging
- 5 fingers - difficult

It is not only books that help your child to read.

At breakfast time - Look at the words on cereal packets, milk and fruit juice cartons. Get them to see how many words they can make out of the letters.

Look in the papers - If your child recognises a famous face, e.g. a football or TV star, it will make them want to read the story.

In the streets - You'll see advertising posters and place names.

In the shops - Your child can help you to find things in the supermarket by reading what's in each aisle.

Videos - Video boxes usually tell you the story. Get your child to read the box as well as watching the film.

Looking at catalogues - Let your child help with choosing clothes, presents, etc.

Unpacking the shopping - Your child can read the words on your groceries while helping to put them away.

CDs and tapes - Your child will find it easier to follow the words if they can hear them at the same time.

Computers - Using the keyboard will help your child become familiar with letters, and they will enjoy following instructions for simple games.

GENERAL TIPS FOR READING

Be enthusiastic

Your child will only be keen if you are. Your encouragement and interest will help your child enjoy reading and show him/her that you think it's important.



Give lots of praise

Children like to feel that their efforts are appreciated. It gives them confidence and makes them feel good. Let them know it's all right to make mistakes.

Get close together

Both of you will need to see the book clearly so that you can give instant praise when your child does well. Make it cosy and enjoyable.

Give them time

Let your child make a guess before you tell them a word. Help them to get the first sound or try breaking the word up into smaller sections.

Point with a finger

Encourage them to follow the words with their finger.

Don't make them try too hard!

It doesn't matter if you have to tell them the word sometimes

Ask lots of questions

Check they understand the story by asking them questions about what happens. Use the pictures to explain what's happening.

Find a quiet place

Children are easily distracted. They will not be able to read well if the television is on in the same room.

Little and often

Frequent short sessions are better than one long one. The quality of the reading is more important than the quantity. It is better to read for 2 minutes and then talk about the book for 10 minutes. This will help your child develop their comprehension skills.

Special time

The best time to share a book is when your child wants to read to you. Remember they may have had a busy day in school and might not be ready to concentrate when they first come home. Try to avoid interrupting a favourite television programme or an exciting game with a friend. After tea might be a good time, or perhaps just before bed.

Keep calm

This is not always easy. Some children read slowly and may get stuck on words they could read easily the day before. They may struggle with short words, which we think are easy - even good readers make careless mistakes. Do not pressure them by saying things like "Come on, you should know that word." Try to be relaxed.

Above all - try to make reading fun for you and your child!