



**Reading together  
at home.**

**Questions to ask whilst  
sharing a book**

**Reception**

# Helping children to decode

(to read the words on the page)

There are three ways to figure out a word that cannot be read:

## 1. Phonics:

Phonics is the use of the sounds in a word to solve what it says. For example: b-a-g = bag w-ee-k = week sh-o-p = shop. You might need to ask for example: "What sound does 'c' and 'h' make when they are put together? ('ch')"

## 2. Context:

This is looking at a sentence as a whole and seeing what would make sense in the difficult word's place. For example: Child struggles with the word "where" in the sentence: "I don't know where the book is." Ask "Which words would make sense? Would 'who' work there?" etc.

## 3. Visual:

This is using pictures to figure out a difficult word. For example: Child struggles with the word "lorry" in the sentence: "Ben looked at the red lorry". Direct with: "Ben is looking at something red. Look at the picture - what could it be?"

# Questions to ask whilst sharing a book

- What is happening on this page?
- Who is your favourite character?
- Which picture do you like most?
- Who said (quote)?
- Can you find the \_\_\_\_\_ in the picture?
- Where is the title?
- Which word rhymes with \_\_\_\_\_?
- Do you like (character name) ?
- Is this a photo or a drawing?
- Is this character good or bad?

## **How do I promote reading skills at home?**

- Read and look at signs in the local area, for example road signs, shop names, labels on food, menus in restaurants etc.
- Bake! Following a written recipe together.
- Join a library and get excited about different fiction and non-fiction books.
- Model the enjoyment of reading — show that you like doing it.
- Look out for children's games with writing involved, for example 'Top Trumps' cards, sticker books etc.
- Make up stories with toys and puppets.
- Look out for tours of children's productions. Visit the theatre to see stories come alive!

## **Challenge questions for confident readers**

- How is (character name) feeling?
- Which is the best describing word on this page?
- Why do you like this book?
- What do you think will happen next?

# Frequently asked questions...

## **What do I do with the Home School Reading Diary?**

We ask that children share a book with an adult at home daily and parents comment and sign as this happens.

School staff will use the book to communicate any messages or information about your child's day at school where necessary—not strictly just their reading. We ask parents or carers to check the book regularly as a result.

Similarly, please do feel free to note any messages regarding your child for us to read, especially on occasions when it may be difficult for you to speak to the teacher or TA directly.

## **How often does my child read in class?**

Children change their reading books two times a week and they are involved in the choosing of their book.

Regularly during the week, each child is heard reading individually by the class teacher, TA and adult helpers. As the year progresses, children will read weekly in a "guided group". During this time, a group of children will share different texts with the teacher, with the aim of developing specific reading skills.

Every day, children in Reception are exposed to texts including stories, poems, letters, information books etc. These may be shared by the whole class or a group of children together.

## **How do we change reading books in school?**

To prepare children for reading, they will explore sounds during daily phonics sessions. As they secure their understanding of segmenting and blending, they will be able to use these skills independently in their home reading book. These books are carefully selected to support progression within their phonics learning and are a vital part of progression.

Please enjoy sharing these books together at home, using the prompt questions provided. Make reading an enjoyable experience by sharing a range of books suited to your child's interests and make reading fun!