



# How to Help Your Child with Reading

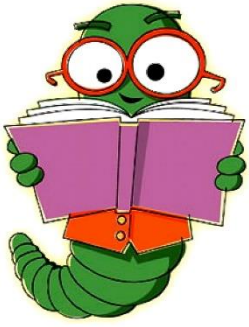
## Key Stage 1

Expanding understanding,

supporting independent learning,

having fun!

## Reading at Home



At Roberts Primary School we know how important it is for teachers and parents to work together to give your child the best educational opportunities. Reading together at home is one of the easiest but most important ways in which you can help and support your child. Reading enhances children's learning and as children grow older they will become more reliant of these skills to support their learning in all of their other subjects. By continuing to share books at home and read together you can improve your child's reading skills and also show them how important and enjoyable reading is. This booklet is a short guide to support you in making reading at home a success.

### YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

#### **How can I find the right book?**

- Talk with your child and find out what sort of books he or she enjoys.
- Ask your child's teacher for tips on what they should be reading at parents evening.
- Talk with other parents and find out which books their children are enjoying reading.
- Find out about recommended books at libraries, bookshops and on book websites.

#### **What do I do if my child picks a book that is too difficult for them to read independently?**

- Children can enjoy more difficult books – even if they can't read them on their own.
- Read parts of it to them and talk about the ideas and pictures if there are any.
- Choose one of the ways to share a book from the list on the opposite page.

#### **How do I find the time?**

Getting together for just 10 to 20 minutes a day or several times a week can have an incredibly positive impact on your child's confidence and achievement in reading.

#### **How can I develop my child's understanding of the books they read?**

Ask them a range of questions about the text they are reading. Here are some examples of questions to ask your child:



- Can you point to the title? What is this? (pointing to the title)
- What do you think this story will be about? What might happen in the story?
- What do we call the writing on the back of the book (blurb)?
- What does the blurb tell us?
- What is happening in the pictures?
- What has happened so far?
- Is it what you expected to happen?
- What might happen next? How do you think the story might end?
- What sort of character is....? Is he/she friendly/ mean/nice...?
- Did you like this book? Why? (Encourage children to develop their opinion about books by encouraging them to explain their reasons)
- What was the most interesting/ exciting part of the book? Can you find it?
- What sort of character was....?
- Why did that character do ... (give a situation/ event from the story)?
- What happened in the story?

## How to encourage your child to read

**Read while you are out and about** – There are many opportunities to read when you are out in the car, taking a walk or shopping in town. Encourage your child to help you by reading signs and guiding the way.

**Read yourself!** It's great for your child to see you as a reader too! This could be anything from books, letters and e-mails to receipts, newspapers and magazines.

**Visit your library** – it's free to join! As well as taking out story books, use visits to the library as a time to find books about your child's hobbies and interests.

**Make time to read** - Set aside a time for reading for the family – after school or before bedtime. Encourage independent reading but don't be afraid to still tell a bedtime story. Bedtime stories create a feeling of security and love and make happy memories that we remember when we are older.

**Don't just read books** - Variety is great! Encourage your child to read newspapers, TV guides, comics, poems, shopping lists, road signs and magazines. Ask your child to find out information from the Internet, cookery books, etc.

**Let your child read with younger children** - Encourage them to read to other members of the family.

**Talk about what they are reading.** – Make time to discuss what they like or don't like about the book they are reading.

### Sharing Books

Sharing a book with a child, no matter how old, is fun! It is a time for closeness, laughing and talking together. It is a great time to involve everyone in the family.

There are many ways to share a book, some of which are particularly suitable for reluctant readers or children who have chosen a book that is too difficult for them to read independently.

- An adult reads to a child.
- A child can read to an adult or older sibling.
- An adult can share the reading, line by line, paragraph by paragraph, page by page or chapter by chapter.
- The adult and the child can read together.
- Or you can try a mixture of the above.



**Don't forget ..... to let your child's teacher know when you have shared a book with them by making a note in their reading record book. This helps us enormously by allowing us to see what the children choose to read and how often they are reading outside of school.**

Here are some useful websites and online resources to help you choose books for children, young people and adults. You might also like to ask in your local school or library for recommendations, or check your local library websites - many of them list recommended reads.

A Story for Bedtime [www.bedtime.com](http://www.bedtime.com)

Booktrust [www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk)

Booktrust <http://www.booktrustchildrensbooks.org.uk/Recommended-Books>

Reading Matters [www.readingmatters.co.uk](http://www.readingmatters.co.uk)

KS1 Bitesize Phonics <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/phonics/play/>

Twinkl <http://www.twinkl.co.uk/>



Have fun reading with your child!