

Older children...

Instant ideas:

- Join the local library – it costs nothing to join and books can be borrowed for free. There are lots of events going on in libraries that you can go to, and libraries can give your child the chance to choose from hundreds of books. All libraries have free internet access as well.

- Show an interest in the books your child brings home from school. This will remind them that reading is important to you.

- Get your child to read to younger brothers and sisters – this will make them feel like the 'expert' and encourage your younger children to read as well.

- Go through a TV listings guide together to choose what you want to watch.

- Play categories – write lists of different groups of things, for example, cartoon characters.

Try making time to...

- Get your child to keep a record of the books they have read, perhaps giving each book a star rating or drawing a picture or writing something about the books that will remind them of it in the future. It is important though not to make this seem like school work.

- Share taped (audio) versions of books that may be too difficult for them to read alone.

- Help your child write a letter or email to a friend or relative

Don't forget that older children enjoy being read to. You could also read your own childhood favourites together (although don't be offended if they don't enjoy them as much as you – everyone has different reading personalities!)



Reading at home

St Mary's C of E Primary
School



Younger children...

Even though schools teach children how to read, parents still have an important role to play. Research shows that parents who get involved in their child's education make a big difference to how well their children do. Parents can help their child with reading by showing how important it is and by finding ways to help their children enjoy reading. Studies show that children who enjoy reading do much better at school. Another recent study also found that children who were reading to their parents improved their reading skills a great deal, even if the parents could not read English or read at all in any language together.

Instant ideas

- Spend 10 minutes reading together. Get your child to retell a favourite picture book in their own words.

- Get your children to make up plays. When a friend comes round they could put on a show for you. They could write the scenes themselves or use books to help them with ideas.

- Let your child choose books that they want to read. It is free to join the library and books can be borrowed for free as well. Librarians can help find books about hobbies, interests, sports or TV programmes.

- Buy books as presents as well as toys, and encourage friends and relatives to do the same. Get your child to work out which bus to take by reading the place names on the front.

Use praise every time your child reads, even if they don't get everything right first time. A 'well done' from an adult is very motivating.

- Make a special place to keep reading books from school, books borrowed from the library and books bought as presents. It will show how important reading is to you.

- Look at brochures and catalogues together.

- Look at newspapers together and point out more unusual words.

- Make a word box and put in new words your child has learnt.

- Let your child see you reading and talk about what you like and don't like reading

Make time to

- Learn new words together.

- Read a book together that you know well, and miss out words. Encourage your child to fill in the blanks with a word of their own. This will help you see how much they understand.

- Go to an event at your local library together. Libraries often hold free fun events and also have free internet access. You can borrow videos and CDs as well as books.