

A guide to supporting your child's reading development at home



Why should my child read at home?

Reading at home is as important as reading at school- in some ways it is more important, because it is at home that young people are more likely to start associating reading with enjoyment and relaxation rather than purely with learning.

Regular reading will improve a student's:

- understanding of vocabulary and spelling,
- understanding of punctuation and sense of sentence structures,
- ability to use their imagination,
- understanding of the world around them and of other cultures,
- ability to relax and focus on a single task for a sustained period of time.

We expect all students to read for 20 minutes per day. At KS3, students should record this reading in their reading journal. You can support this by:

- checking that they have brought a reading book home from school every day and discussing this with them,
- ensuring that there is a calm, quiet place and time of the day when they can complete their 20 minutes of reading,
- discussing with them what they have read,
- hearing them read from time to time- although it is also important that they develop the ability to read in their head,
- signing their reading journal (KS3 only) as evidence that they have completed the homework.

How else can I support their reading development?



If you have five minutes:

Ask your child to read you the instructions for a recipe, DIY furniture or a new gadget (basically, make any reading that needs to be done your child's job!)



If you have 15 minutes:

Ask your child to read you an article from a newspaper or magazine- ask them to summarise what has been read afterwards. Discuss your views on the article.



If you have 30 minutes:

Read a chapter of your child's book with them- you could take turns reading.

Play a board game that involves making words- like Scrabble or Boggle.

What can I do if my child just doesn't want to read?

- **Don't force them:** initially, if your child is disinterested or reluctant to read, don't force the issue at that moment. It can be better to stop and try again when they are happy and relaxed.
- **Be a model reader:** it is important that your child sees you reading books, newspapers, magazines and other materials.
- **Take turns:** if they refuse to read initially, then read to them and then gradually offer to take turns.
- **Rewards:** is there something that your child could work towards earning by completing a certain amount of reading or days of completed reading homework?

Further ideas for helping your child to read at home:

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/> (This website includes lots of book suggestions and reviews for children and young people of all ages- it includes extracts of each book.)

<http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/helping-with-reading-7-11>

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/reading-at-home/encouraging-reading-ages-9-11/>

If you have any other questions or concerns about how to motivate or support your child with their reading development, please do not hesitate to contact your child's English teacher.