

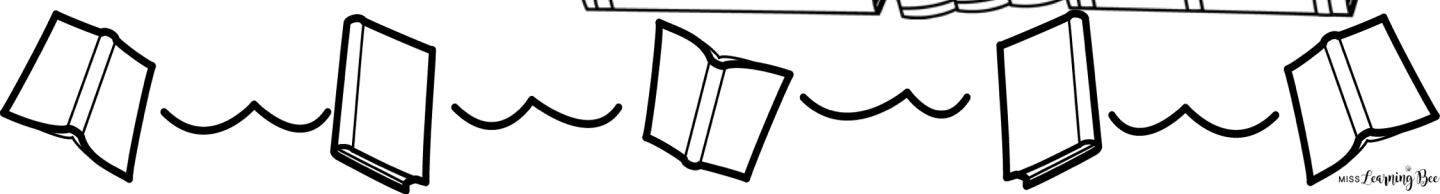
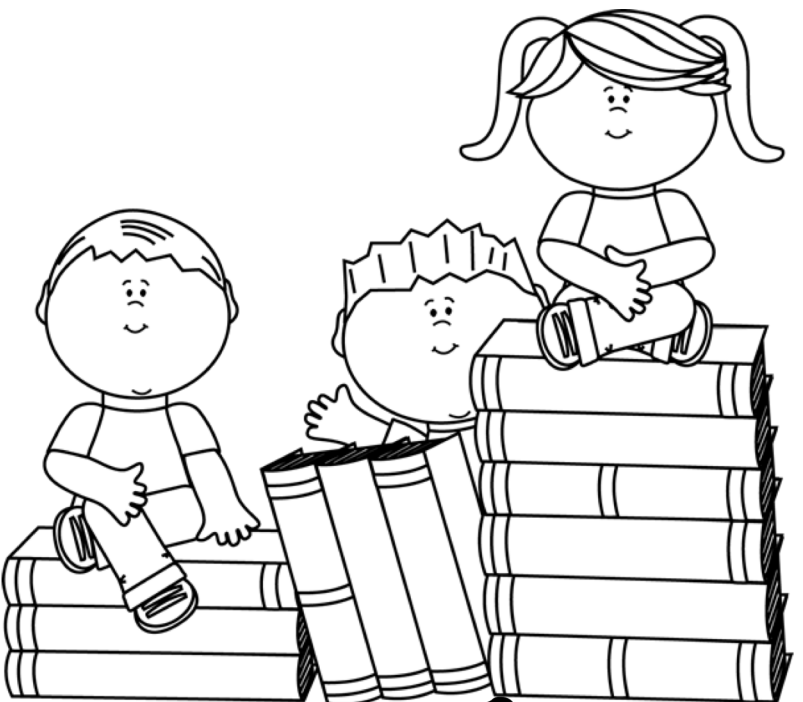


HOME READING

Home readers are designed to develop a child's confidence in reading aloud with accuracy, fluency and expression, as well as nurture a love of reading. They should be relatively easy for students to read independently (read with around 95-98% accuracy). Teachers will monitor your child's reading progress at school and students will be exposed to more difficult books (instructional texts) during guided reading sessions.

Please note that your child will not be able to read even the simplest home readers with independent accuracy when they first start school. Initially they will require a lot of extra parent assistance. However, reading independence will progress as your child's phonics and sight word knowledge increases.

We really encourage you to ask your child questions about their reader to ensure that they understand what they have read. Ask your child to retell the story focusing on sequential order and including as much detail as possible.

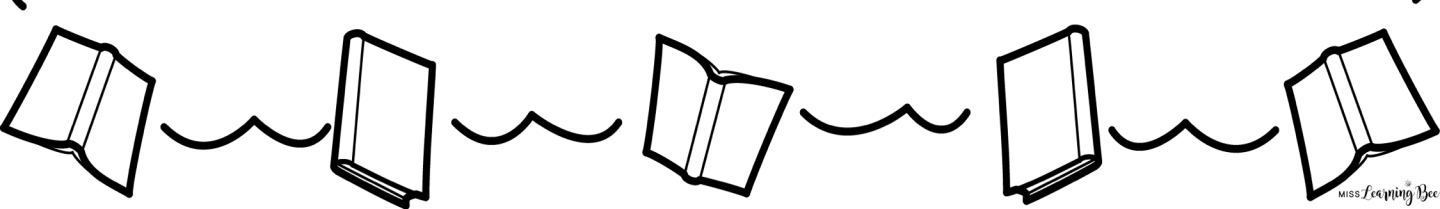


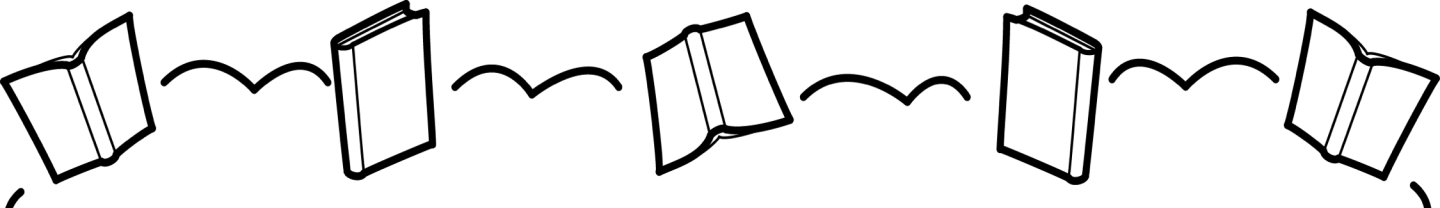


The 'DO'S of reading with your child...

- Make sure you spend lots of time **reading for enjoyment**- read to your child as well as have them read to you, and keep the sessions fun.
- Ensure you are **relaxed, interested and supportive** as this will in turn help your child to feel ok when they make mistakes or can't work out a word.
- Remember that the **goal of reading is to understand (make sense)** of what is read, so always keep this in mind when you are prompting or praising your child.
- Give your child **plenty of praise**. We want our kids to love to read!
- Keep the **sessions short** so that your child is not overwhelmed.
- Model **correct posture and strategies** as you read with your child.
- If they make an error, try not to jump in straight away and supply the correct word. Instead, **wait and give your child the time** to work it out. This will help them to not feel rushed or pressured.
- Encourage your child to **have a go at words** that they cannot read using the phonemic, contextual and picture clues.
- **Talk, talk, talk** → encourage your child to develop their comprehension skills by predicting, questioning and discussing characters and events. Relate the pictures and experiences in the book to your child's own experiences.
- Remember **some children take a while** for things to "click"- don't worry if their progress is slow to begin with or takes time! Every child learns at different rates.
- **Play word games** e.g. *can you think of other words that rhyme with cat? What other words start with 's'?*

The DON'TS

- Don't make reading feel like a chore or a pressured experience.
 - Don't encourage comparisons with other children. Every child is on their own learning journey!
 - Don't be afraid to ask for help or advice.
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Encourage your child to work out unknown words by using the following reading strategies:

- Try reading on for a sentence or two, miss out the difficult word, and see if that helps to work out what it is. Use the context of the sentence to help decipher an unknown word.
- Look at the sound a word begins with. Use the clue and think: *what could the word be? What sound does that letter make? What would make sense there?*
- Go back and read the sentence again if you come across a tricky word.
- Highlight the sounds in a word and chunk sounds together. You might like to use your fingers to break the word into recognizable chunks. *Can you see any little words in this word? E.g. find the 'th' in that, now find the 'at'.*
- Stretch out the sounds in words and then slowly blend them together.
- Look at the pictures for clues.
- Go back to the beginning of the sentence, re-read it and have another go.
- If none of these strategies have helped, then ask your child if they would like you to help them (you could give more clues) or to tell them the word.

Don't be afraid to read the same book again. This can help to build a child's confidence and develop fluency and expression.





Before Reading:

- Look at the cover, discuss the title, author and illustrator of the book and allow your child time to look at the pictures. Encourage your child to predict what a book is about from the cover illustrations. If a book contains no words, this is a great opportunity for imagination to take over and for your child to create their own story.
- Ask them to predict what the story might be about.
- Make sure you are both comfortable and can clearly see the text.
- Talk about connections between you and other books, or the world. This will help to provide context.

During Reading:

- For beginning readers:
 - Read the whole story with your child. Ask your child to point to every word as you read it. Then reread the story again together. Finally, ask your child to have a go at reading the book on their own (they will remember some of the words and feel more confident having already listened to the book being read once or twice before).
 - Read a sentence and have your child repeat it. Encourage your child to use his/her finger to point to each word.
- As your child's reading ability develops:
 - Take turns reading a sentence or a page each.
 - Give your child lots of opportunities to try and self-correct or work out the word for themselves. If your child makes an error, do not correct it until the end of the sentence to allow them to develop some fluency.
 - If your child successfully works out a word that they have stumbled over, suggest that they go back to the beginning of the sentence and read the whole sentence again to recap meaning.






Talk about the story as you read it. What do you think will happen next? What does this story remind you of? How is the character feeling right now?

After Reading:

- What was your favourite part?
- Who are the characters?
- When did the story happen? (e.g. at night, after school)
- Where did the story take place?
- What happened in the beginning, middle and end of the story?
- What happened next?
- Develop inferential comprehension skills (background knowledge + text clue = inference)
 - Why did something happen?
 - Why do you think...
 - Why did the character...
 - How did the character feel?
 - Predict what would happen if...
 - Predict what will happen when...
 - What lesson does this book teach?
 - How did the character feel when?
 - From this story you could probably guess...
 - What might happen next in the story?
 - Can you think of a different ending?
- Make links to the text, self and world.
 - What would you have done in that situation?
 - Can you think of a time something similar happened to you?
 - What lesson did you learn from this story?
- Find me a page where... (developing comprehension)
- Find me the sentence, word, part of the word, full stop (developing grammar and spelling knowledge)
- Find me this sight word.





Final top tips for encouraging a love of reading:

- Make reading a valued part of your family time- read bedtime stories, visit a local library and borrow books regularly, read a recipe and cook something together, have lots of books available in the house, create comfortable reading spaces in your home.
- Develop a routine of reading with your child every day. This is one of the best ways to develop a life-long positive attitude towards reading.
- Make time away from the television/screens and other interruptions to read aloud with your child.
- Always find something to praise your child for when you read with them. Encourage them to not compare themselves with other friends and family.
- Model a love of reading and show your child how to care for books.
- Make a habit of finding words in your environment- when cooking, shopping, watching TV, looking through magazines, on cereal boxes etc.

Above all, encourage your child to develop a love of reading and to understand how important reading is!

Make sure they have lots of opportunities to practise reading, be patient with their struggles and celebrate every success, no matter how small! Help to make their reading experiences enjoyable as they have the world of books opened up to them!

