

**A guide to reading at home for early years.**

*We believe that a close partnership with families is essential for children to reach their potential in reading. The purpose of this leaflet is to provide you with information which will enable you to support your child with their reading at home.*

Making reading fun

It is important first and foremost for children to develop a love for reading. Here are some tips for making reading fun:

* Ask your child about the kinds of books he or she would like to read.
* Read with drama and excitement! Use different voices for different characters in the story. Use your child's name instead of a character's name. Make puppets and use them to act out a story.
* Read all kinds of material – stories, poems, information books, magazines and newspaper articles and comics.
* Re-read your child's favourite stories as many times as your child wants to hear them and choose books and authors that your child enjoys.
* Read stories that have repetitive parts and encourage your child to join in.

Comprehension skills

Reading does not have to be limited to just the children reading. When the children start to take home reading scheme books from the Oxford reading tree it is important to still read stories to them and continue reading together.

It is also really important for them to be read to and learn the enjoyment of sharing books. Lots of skills can be gained from sharing a story and talking about it.

Here are some ways to help your child acquire skills in comprehension and understanding when reading a book together:

* Look at the cover and the title of a book with your child and ask your child what he or she thinks might happen in the story.
* Encourage your child to ask questions and to comment on the story and pictures in a book – before, during, and after reading it
* Encourage your child to think critically about the story. Does he or she agree or disagree with the character? Why?
* Think out loud about the story as you read and encourage your child to do the same. For example, ask, "Does this make sense? Why or why not?"

Questions for reading

Below is an example of questions you could ask to extend your child’s reading skills:

* What happened in the story?
* Why do you think…did that?
* When/where did the story take place?
* Which is your favourite character?
* What do you think will happen next?
* Can you think of a better ending?
* What can you tell me about the story so far?
* As I read\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, it made me picture\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in my head. What pictures do you see in your head?
* Do you think there will be a problem in this story? Why or why not?
* What was your favourite part of the story?
* Did you like the book? Why?

How reading works at Llansannor

Initially the children will be given library books each week to take home and share. When the children are ready to read they will have sight words sent home as well as books according to stage of development. It is important to try and read as much as possible at home, even if it is only for a few minutes a night. Little and often is best. Pupils will need to read the books confidently, recognise words out of context and show understanding of text in order for the book to be changed. We ask the parents or carers to write comments in the home/school reading diary to let us know every time they read at home. Please can reading records and books be brought into school daily?

We thank you so much for your support with the children’s reading at home. Reading is a skill that will go with them through life and we hope to give them the best start and help them develop a real love for reading.



