

Newby and Scalby Primary School

Advice from www.direct.gov.uk website (parents and carers section) and [www.bbc.co.uk /schools/parents](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents)

Reading with your child and helping them with writing and spelling can help boost their achievement. Certain skills, like reading and counting, are worth really practising at home because they're fundamental to your child's progress later on.

Reading

Teachers say that promoting reading at home is the most important way that parents can help their child. Make sure your child has regular reading practice and check they understand what they read. Here are some more tips on helping your child with reading:

- when you read to your child, make the experience interactive - ask questions about the story, the pictures, and what they think of the characters
- as their reading skills grow, gradually let them turn the tables until they're reading to you
- use dictionaries together for difficult words - a picture dictionary can make exploring language more interesting
- enrol your child at the local library so they can try new books regularly
- keep an eye out for the themes that catch your child's imagination at school - and help follow it up with more reading
- when you come across an unusual or funny-sounding word, help your child find out what it means and write it on the fridge door with magnetic letters

As your child gets older encourage them to pick up other books around the house to boost familiarity with 'grown-up' language. Suggest a reading list, and encourage your child to write down thoughts on the books they have read.

Helping with reading

As a parent you are probably helping your child with reading much more than you may realise. If your home contains books, magazines and catalogues and your child sees you reading, if you read to your child and talk together about familiar stories and if you also use printed materials to find things out, then your child already has a head start in this area.

How to help with reading homework

- ☐ Remember that talking about reading is very important, so if your child is sometimes reluctant to read aloud, discussing a book will also help to develop reading skills.
- ☐ Concentrate on enjoyment and grasping the meaning rather than absolute accuracy.
- ☐ Keep reading time relaxed, comfortable and pleasurable, in a quiet corner, with the television turned off.

- ☐ Talk about the cover and read the title before rushing your child into the text, asking questions, such as: what do you think it will be about; what sort of book is it; have you read one like this before?
- ☐ Look through the book, noticing interesting pictures and words, then read the opening together.
- ☐ Don't correct too quickly. If your child makes an error suggest having another go, searching the pictures for a clue, sounding out the first letter or reading on before you 'tell' the problem word.
- ☐ If your child is really struggling, take over the reading yourself and let the teacher know.
- ☐ When your child brings home a book that has been read before ask for a summary before reading it again, then discuss the book at a deeper level than last time.
- ☐ As your child progresses, talk about authors, characters and plots or what new information has been learnt.
- ☐ If your child reads silently ask her to re-tell the part that has been read and encourage the 'pointing out' of relevant sections in the text.
- ☐ Attend information sessions about reading run by the school and read any guidance that is sent home.
- ☐ Join your local library together and use it regularly. Watch out for storytelling events, summer reads and reviews of new titles.
- ☐ Make sure that you read often with your child. As your child learns, he will want to read often to you, too. Make a regular commitment to visit your local library. Take out a book for yourself as well as allowing your child to choose, to show that it's 'cool' for grown-ups to read too.
- ☐ Limit TV. At the start of each week, read the TV guide with your child and get him to note down all the things he wants to watch that week in a diary or on a pin-board. He could write a mini review of a favourite programme, complete with stick-on stars, afterwards.

**But most of all –
enjoy sharing
reading regularly!**

