

## Supporting Your Child's Reading

The most effective way to support students' reading development is to help them enjoy reading.

### Tips:

Reading aloud and sharing stories together can break through the normal routine of the day and can provide a much-needed pause, as well as creating a magical connection leading to conversations and inside jokes.

Make it a part of your child's routine.

Offer lots of praise and encouragement.

Think about a quiet space / time for them to read.

### How could you introduce reading aloud in your home?

Approach it through a 'normal' event. Over dinner, you could mention you've been reading something and would like your child's opinion on the topic.

*Short extracts from articles about current events are a great way to start this with older children who may have gone a long time without being read to in the home.*

If you are driving to school or the shops, you could put on an audiobook – the read aloud doesn't have to be your own voice!

*This has benefits for families with very busy schedules, who have longer car journeys as part of their week or parents who don't feel confident reading themselves.*

*Encourage them to follow along with the text as they are listening if you can!*

### Finding texts for your child

Helping our children to find age appropriate texts will help them to feel success with their reading. Encourage them to read for pleasure - not just for work/lessons.

#### Where to look:

- School and community libraries not only offer free access to books, but they often also have audio books and e-books that your child could borrow.
- Book shops provide a chance for your child to browse and purchase books with support from staff, if they wish. Some book shops will have review cards with some of their top-picks too.
- Audio books can be purchased from devices such as phones, as well as on CDs or borrowed from a library.

#### How to choose:

- You could look at fiction books related to topics they are interested in, or encourage them to read about it online.
- If they've enjoyed a book before, encourage them to read another text by the same author.
- If you are browsing in a shop/library/online, you could read the back of the books (blurbs) and a page from the start to help decide whether this feels like something they'd like to read more of.
- Be mindful about your child's reading level so that they can access the vocabulary the text contains.

(For some students who struggle with reading, books from Barrington Stoke publishers and the OUP Super Readable Rollercoasters may be worth exploring).

Choose a scene from a novel or play you have recently read that you feel would make a great film scene. Storyboard your chosen scene on paper, or create a video using a technique such as stop motion.	Choose three genres and select a book to read from each: crime, science-fiction, adventure, comedy, gothic. Consider which genre you preferred and what features it had that others didn't.	After reading a text you've really enjoyed, choose a creative 'follow-up' challenge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• write an alternative ending</li> <li>• write a short story about one of the minor characters</li> <li>• rewrite a scene that could have gone a different way.</li> </ul>
Read the instructions to make/do something. It could be a model, a craft project or board game.	Read a text (play script or novel) and then watch the film version. Discuss how the two compare with someone who has done the same.	Read an abridged or full version of a classic text. For example: Alice in Wonderland, Sherlock Holmes, The Secret Garden, The Lion The Witch and The Wardrobe, <u>Watership Down</u> , Frankenstein, Wuthering Heights.
Read a book someone has recommended to you. When you have finished, discuss what you thought about the story.	Consider five topics you've studied in different subjects this year and find articles or books to read around each one over the summer. Document what you've learned and note down any questions you have to research further/ask a teacher.	Read a play text of your choice. When you have finished, consider what you notice about the way plays are written.
Create something delicious by reading a new recipe from a cookbook or online recipe website.	At least twice a week, read a newspaper article, either online or from the paper itself. Consider whether the writer was trying to present a particular point of view.	Read three poems by the same author. You could do this every week and compare the topics they explore and how they write. You could start with Carol Ann Duffy or Simon Armitage.