Working Together, Learning Together, Growing Together

Hearing Children Read

Firstly, thank you for taking the time to read through this guide!

Teaching children to read is one of the most important things we can do. Amazing readers have shared books, been read to, have books read at home, read widely and have talked and discussed the books they have shared.

A reading journey will last a life time. Reading is not easy or straight forward and it needs to be practised regularly.

This guide has got some tips, ideas and strategies to use at home.

Introducing the Book

- Look at front cover – read the title and discuss what the book could be about
- What do you think might happen in the story?
- Have you read any other books by this author?
- Where might the story take place?

The Blurb – read the blurb together and discuss what the book might be about. Make some simple predictions.

- Does this book remind you of any other stories?
- Do you want to read this book and find out more?
- What do you think will happen in the story?

A Walk Through Before Reading – during the early stages of reading, a walk through the book can help gain an understanding of what is going to be read and allows for questions to be asked and answered.

Discussions During Reading – there are many discussions you can have together. (Sometimes they might just want to get on with the reading)
• What has happened so far?
• Discuss meaning of key words/vocabulary
• Where is the story set?
• How do you think the character is going to deal with the dilemma?
• Shall we use phonics to help read a new word?
• How is the story setting different from real life?
• If you were in that situation what would you have done?
• What is happening in this picture, diagram or photo?
• How are the characters feeling so far?
• What facts have you found out?
• What is the dilemma?
• What is going to happen next?

**Discussing characters**

• Villains are often good characters to discuss
• Do the characters remind you of anyone else?
• Are the characters connected in anyway?
• Discuss the events – Why did it happen? Who is responsible? What did they do? What affect did this have?

**Making Links with other texts** - Thinking about books by the same author or stories that have similar characters

• Similarities and differences between books
• Settings
• Characters
• Themes
• Animals
• Events
• Feelings or emotions
• Morals

**After reading**

• Turn the story into a comic strip or story map
• Discuss likes and dislikes
• Write the sequel
• Was there anything that was confusing?
• Draw a favourite scene
• Design a new front cover
• Read another book by the same author or similar setting
• Talk about it!