



Reading Tips For Parents

Ideas to support DASP pupils
with reading at home



*“Children are made readers on the laps
of their parents”*

Emily Buchwald

Ideas for early readers

Research shows that one of the most important things a parent can do to boost the educational chances of their children is to read to them. Just 10 minutes a day of reading to your child can make an enormous difference to your child's enjoyment of reading and to their confidence in themselves as a reader. Make sure you spare time for a bedtime story!

Never be afraid of reading your child's book to them first before they attempt to read it independently—this will help your child to understand how we change our voices and how the story flows and will also ensure that reading together is relaxed and enjoyable. Knowing what a story is about helps a young reader to tackle it with greater confidence.

Praise your child's attempts when faced with an unfamiliar word and then ask them what they need to do if they can't work the word out. The first port of call should be to "sound it out".

If you are unsure of how to help your child when "sounding out" - particularly knowing which sounds your child should recognise and how we group letters together to make one sound, your school can provide you with further information to support this.



Talk about the story and the characters—this will help your child to understand that ideas and opinions are all a part of reading. Draw attention to the pictures, cover, layout, blurb etc and talk about them.

Encourage your child to play an active part in the reading session—holding the book, turning the pages and discussing the things that interest them once the ideas have been "sparked" from the book.

Whenever possible, let your child see you reading for purpose and enjoyment.

The MORE
that you read,
the MORE things
you will know.
The MORE that you
LEARN,
the MORE places you'll go.



Make a special place to keep reading books borrowed from school or the library or bought as presents. This will show how important reading is to you.

Make reading a part of everyday life, e.g. when you are out shopping read labels and signs, if you are driving play a "sounding out" game or "I spy" with the letters on the registration plates of the cars.

Remember that reading at home is an opportunity to practise skills learnt at school, it shouldn't feel like a test.

Ideas for more advanced readers

Once a child is reading more fluently, the focus shifts from sounding out and decoding words to engaging at a deeper level with the text. Asking your child questions about texts read can make a real difference and will develop their understanding. Here are some ideas of questions to ask:

- ◆ Where does the story take place?
- ◆ Who are the characters?
- ◆ Do you know another story that deals with ?
- ◆ Which stories have openings like this?
- ◆ Is it as good as ... ?
- ◆ Which is better and why?
- ◆ What happened in the story?
- ◆ What do you think is happening here?
- ◆ What makes you think that?
- ◆ What do these words mean and why do you think the author has chosen them?
- ◆ What is your opinion? What evidence do you have to support this?
- ◆ What would this character think about ...?

Remember

- ◇ Variety is important for children, as is freedom of choice.
- ◇ Short stories are just as valid an experience as a paperback novel.
- ◇ The sustained concentration required of a fluent reader to enjoy a full length paperback is an important attitude, but children should not be made to feel that reading should always require such effort.

And finally don't stop reading aloud to your child—at every stage of your child's reading development it is important not to underestimate the importance of reading to them or reading together.

**Dream Big
READ!**

Some tips from DASP pupils

Make reading fun!

Don't always wait until the end of the day to read as you are often tired. Ask Mum and Dad when they aren't too busy.

You don't need to read a whole book each night—just a little bit.

Read with/to your brothers and sisters or whoever is willing to sit down and listen to you read.

You can always read your favourite book again and again.

A treat for a long read works really well!

Your Mum or Dad
could read to you
sometimes.

Read in a space that is
quiet.
Turn the TV off.
Get yourself comfortable
when you read.

Read anything and
everything—even the
back of a cereal packet
or road signs.

You can always ask a
teacher or librarian for
advice on what books to
read.

"I like it when I read a
page and then Mum
reads a page".

Resources and Activities

Useful websites:

The Literacy Trust: www.literacytrust.org.uk

Words For Life: <http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/author-interviews>

The Book Trust: www.booktrust.org.uk

Work Book Day: www.worldbookday.com

Article from Chris Evans on reading to your children:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/hay-festival/10849403/Chris-Evans-parents-must-read-to-their-children.html>

Activities:

Dorset Library Summer Reading Challenge—Mythical Maze. The Challenge will run in all Dorset Libraries, Mobile Libraries and Community Managed Libraries starting on Saturday 5 July.

DASP Extreme Reading Competition (more details from your school)

Premier League Reading Stars Online Challenge:

http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/plrs_2014_home

