

St Andrews Foundation Stage



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Helping your child to learn to read

The phonic skills we teach in Reception are

- **Segmenting** - splitting the word into its sounds
- **Blending** - pushing the sounds together to make a word
- **Manipulating** - changing and swapping sounds to make new words

Each day in school, all children in Reception and key stage 1 have a 15 minute phonics session where exciting resources are used to make the sessions stimulating. Phonics books are also sent home each night to inform you where we are up to and also allowing your child to enhance their understanding of the sounds that have been covered.

All children will also be given reading books which they take home each night. It is very important that children read at home as often as possible. Your child will also read to an adult in school at least twice per week.

Reading at home should be relaxing and enjoyable experience for you both! Do not even attempt reading with a young child if they are feeling tired or unwell. If

your child quickly finishes their school reading book, it is an ideal time to share other books with your child, go to the library or play word games.

Games to play at home

Alliteration - Lucy likes to lick lollipops!

I spy - great for journeys to and from school!

When you are reading at home

- Look at the front cover
- Read the title
- Talk about what you see and what you think the book might be about
- Open the book and let your child look at the pictures
- Begin to look at the words, pointing to each one as you read it

Encourage your child to use their 'reading voices'

- When you have worked out all of the words together, go back and re read the whole sentence, still pointing at the words
- Repeat the process on the next page
- If you are looking at an information book, look at the contents page, index and glossary too.
- Ask questions about what you have read. Ask your child to tell you what has happened in the story so far. Also ask them to predict what they think might happen next.
- Discuss the characters in the story.

Remember!

- All children are different and learn to read at their own pace.
- Be proud of their achievements and make sure you tell them that you are!
- Enjoy this time, they are only little once and before you know it, they will be reading independently!

Being able to read is the most important skill children learn during their early schooling. Being able to read has far reaching implications for lifelong confidence and wellbeing. Being able to read unlocks the door to every area of learning.

How do children learn to read?

Reading is not a single skill, there are many skills involved.

- Recognising words and letters by their shapes
- Using pictures to predict what might happen next
- Being able to memorise tricky words
- Being able to hear individual sounds in words

Phonics

There is a great deal of emphasis on the teaching of phonics. We follow 'Letters and Sounds' and we also use Jolly Phonics. We use songs and actions to secure children's knowledge of phonics. There are lots of great websites that have letters and sounds games that your child is sure to enjoy

Phil Taylor

(Foundation Stage Manager)