

Helping your child to read in Key Stage 2

Continuing to provide parental reading support for your child in Key Stage 2 is an important way of helping them make further progress in all subject areas. As they can now decode (read) many of the words in their books the focus of your help can move onto understanding and discussing the text. By talking with them and asking questions you can help them to understand the 'literal' knowledge (what the text says) and the harder 'inferential' meaning (where they have to work out what the author is suggesting, but not telling the reader directly). Continuing to read with your child and having your child read out loud to you, little and often (preferably daily) is important. At **all** stages of reading children should have the opportunity to read out loud to an adult. This is a very important skill and allows misconceptions and mispronunciations to be noticed and corrected.

When hearing your child read, here are some questions you can ask to support their understanding of the text:

1. When you first saw the book, even before you read it, what kind of book did you think it was going to be?
2. Who is the author and illustrator?
3. What does the blurb (on the back cover) tell you about the story?
4. Do you know any other books by the same author or illustrator?
5. Have you read any other books like this?
6. How long do you think it took for the story to happen?
7. Which character interested you the most? Why?
8. Which character did you like least? Why?
9. Why did you think that certain characters behaved in the way that they did? What motivated them?
10. Where did the story happen?
11. How do you know ...? (a question about something the author suggests or implies, but doesn't tell you directly).
12. Were there any patterns or connections that you noticed?
13. Who was telling – who was narrating - the story? Do we know? How do we know?
14. Why has the author used this punctuation?
15. While you were reading, or now when you think about it, were there any words or phrases or other things to do with the language that you liked?
16. If the writer asked you what could be improved in the book, what would you say?
17. Has anything that happens in this book ever happened to you?
18. Was there anyone not mentioned in the story, but without whom it couldn't have happened?
19. Would you recommend this book? Why? Why not?
20. If you were asked by the author to write an alternative ending, what would you write? Why?

