

# Reading

**THE BEST WAY TO HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IS TO HELP THEM TO DEVELOP A LOVE OF READING.**

## HOW CAN I HELP?

- Listen to your child read as regularly as possible—at least three times a week—regardless of their age or ability.
- Read to your child—even our most able readers benefit from sharing stories and picture books.
- Talk to your child about what they are reading. Do they like it? Why?
- Take your child to the library or use the Libby app to give them a wider range of reading materials.

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Research shows that reading enjoyment is more important than how much money a child's parents have, or how well they themselves did at school.

Achievement across the curriculum depends on a child's ability to read. They must be able to read in order to succeed!

Reading offers an escape and is proven to help mental health.

## THE READING ENVIRONMENT

- Find a quiet space to hear your child read, away from distractions.
- Turn off devices - yours and theirs!
- Show your child that this is a special time together. This will help them to grow their own love of reading.

### TOP TIP

Listen to audio books in the car. These can be downloaded for free using Borrow Box or Libby.

## HOW CAN I HELP? IMPROVING FLUENCY—MODELLING

- In order to read fluently, children must first hear and understand what fluent reading sounds like. From there, they will be more likely to transfer those experiences into their own reading. The most powerful way for you to help your child is to read aloud to them, often and with great expression.

## HOW CAN I HELP? IMPROVING FLUENCY—ECHO READING

- Try using ‘Echo-Reading’, where you read part of a sentence and your child copies you - this might be a word or two, or even half a sentence, at a time, depending on your child's ability.
- Make sure you change your voice to suit the story and make it clear how to include punctuation by pausing at commas and full stops.

## HOW CAN I HELP? IMPROVING FLUENCY—REHEARSING

- Let your child ‘rehearse’ their reading with a sibling, pet or even a toy, then get them to read the same passage of text to an adult. This will build their confidence and help them to become more familiar with the text, which makes it easier to change the expression in their voice when they read aloud.

Ask simple questions as you read to check if your child understands the story.

**TOP TIP**

*Why did the character do that?*

*How are they feeling?*

*What has happened so far in the story?*

*What would you do if you were the character?*

**TOP TIP**

When using audio books, have the children follow a printed copy of the text. They will be able to see how the narrator changes their voice and how the punctuation should sound when read aloud.