

## Encourage reading at home

Story time - Make story time a daily event to be treasured, with no interruptions. Let different people read their favourite stories. Let your child have their favourite story lots of times. Let your child join in, and let them learn bits off by heart.

Model reading – let your child see you reading – recipe cards, TV guide, car manuals, magazines, novels, kindles ....

Look for logos – Read familiar logos together. Can your child recognise M for McDonalds? Extend this to other words like ASDA or VW.

More books – join the library and enjoy choosing books, or attend a story session. Look in charity shops, take one of our free books – bring it back and swap for another one if you want to, or keep it and use it.

Talk about stories – it's important to make sure your child actually understands what's happening in a story so check they really understand by making comments or asking questions (not too many – it's not an exam!) Talk about what's happening in the pictures too. Often pictures give clues as to how people are feeling and it's important that your child picks up on these subtle clues.

Tell stories – there doesn't always have to be a book. Use finger puppets, toys, people or imagination to help you tell a story. Sometimes you can change the characters in a well-known story, or even change the ending!

Reading words – children like to read words that mean something to them. They can already read their own name, so teach them to read Mummy or Daddy by having that word written on something special. Then move onto brothers or sisters, or pets' names or special toy's names.

Phonics – this is one part of reading that is often talked about in the news. It is important, but it is a small part of reading at this stage. If you talk about letters use the sound they make, so if you look at an a say a a a not ay. Try not to put an uh sound on some letters, so b is just a quick bouncy sound bbbb not buh, buh, buh and not bee.

You may need lots of help to say the sounds in this pure way as it is a new idea. Look at Read Write Inc website for some videos and speak to Miss Ball for further advice.

So make time for reading stories, words, logos and letters as often as you can. And enjoy it – it mustn't become a chore or a battleground between you and your child!