

Mansbridge Primary School

Octavia Road
Swaythling
SOUTHAMPTON
SO18 2LX



Tel: 02380 556691
Email: info@mansbridgepri.net

13th October 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

In line with our whole school approach of continuously raising standards and enjoyment of reading I thought I would take this opportunity to share some simple tips with you. As parents you are your child's most influential teacher with an important part to play in helping your child to learn to read.

Here are some suggestions on how you can help to make this a positive experience.

10 Top Tips on Hearing Your Child Read

1. Choose a quiet time

Set aside a quiet time with no distractions. Ten to fifteen minutes is usually long enough.

2. Make reading enjoyable

Make reading an enjoyable experience. Sit with your child. Try not to pressurise if he or she is reluctant. If your child loses interest, then do something else connected with the book e.g. a drawing, a book review a piece of drama etc.

3. Maintain the flow

If your child mispronounces a word do not interrupt immediately. Instead allow opportunity for self-correction. It is better to tell a child some unknown words (especially names and place names) to maintain the flow rather than insisting on trying to build them all up from the sounds of the letters. If your child does try to 'sound out' words, encourage the use of letter sounds (phonics) rather than 'alphabet names' as these cannot be blended together.

4. Be positive

If your child says something nearly right to start with that is fine. Don't say 'No. That's wrong,' but 'Let's read it together' and point to the words as you say them. Boost your child's confidence with constant praise for even the smallest achievement.

5. Success is the key

Parents anxious for a child to progress can mistakenly give a child a book that is too difficult. This can have the opposite effect to the one they are wanting. Remember 'Nothing succeeds like success'. Until your child has built up his or her confidence, it is

better to keep to easier books. Struggling with a book with many unknown words is pointless. Flow is lost, text cannot be understood and children can easily become reluctant readers.

6. Visit the Library

Encourage your child to use the public library regularly.

7. Regular practice

Try to read with your child on most school days. We openly encourage the children to read at least 3 times a week and there are class and school prizes for the class which does this the most. 'Little and often' is best. We would love to listen to your children read individually everyday but as you can appreciate this is not possible with a class of 30 children.

8. Communicate

Your child has a reading diary from school. Try to communicate regularly with positive and specific comments about their reading and any concerns you may have. Your child will then know that you are interested in their progress and that you value reading.

9. Talk about the books

There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Just as important is being able to understand what has been read. Always talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end, their favourite part. You will then be able to see how well they have understood and you will help them to develop good comprehension skills, which are vital in Key Stage 2.

10. Variety is important

Remember children need to experience a variety of reading materials e.g. picture books, hard backs, comics, magazines, poems, and information books. Always respect reading choices as reading for enjoyment is so important at a primary age.

I hope this has given you some practical ideas and guidance on how to make the reading experience with your children as successful as possible. If there is ever any area of reading you are not sure about, please feel free to come and talk to me about it.

Yours Sincerely

W Kesterson

William Kesterson
Reading Champion