

Reading- how can you help at home?

You can help at home by:

- Reading with your child at least five nights of the week.
- It is very important for you to read alongside your child because you can point out the errors and punctuation marks that are often the cause of misunderstanding.
- It is also important for you to ask questions occasionally. Perhaps at the end of the chapter, or a page for the weaker readers. Things like “Who did what?”, and “Why?”, “What might happen next?”
- Above all the most important contribution any parent can offer is to support and encourage the child. If your child feels like a successful reader, they will be.
- Parents play a key role in the development of reading skills. They help provide critical background knowledge and real-life experiences that readers need in decoding and understanding printed text. Family discussions and listening to someone else read can help create excitement and enthusiasm for both spoken and written language.

Brain Teaser

Read the following sentence then try to answer the questions:

The Brumbly Tublup was dinating gurdly by the condly pirrostin.

Questions:

1. How was the tublup dinating?
2. What was the tublup like?
3. What was the brumbly tublup doing by the pirrostin?
4. How would you best describe the pirrostin?

This sentence and the questions are complete nonsense, yet you were probably quite successful in getting the correct answers. You used your knowledge of language to answer these questions.

The point is

You do not need to understand anything about tublups to answer correctly to literal questions like this.

Your knowledge of how language works enabled you to be successful. Your children use this same knowledge and skill to answer questions in school. In fact they often read the questions, then search the passage to locate the answer, without ever really understanding any of the other important points made within the exercise.

It is this skill that may have carried your child through school until now. To enable your child to be successful in examinations in future, they need to be able to understand what an author was trying to say; to look at, and comment upon bias, fact and opinion. To do this they must be able to understand more than just the words on the page.

Listening to a reader

Let your child choose what to read- yes, even comics occasionally!

When you are reading together stop at a convenient place and ask a few questions to see if your child is following the story line.

Eg Who did what?

Where did it happen?

Why?

What might happen next?

Questions like this establish whether your child is following the story line. If they seem lost, re-cap the plot quickly and then go on. Don't make remembering difficult. Give your child a chance to answer first, then help out if you're needed. Another way to help is to notice words that your child may not understand.

Reading strategies

Words within words

Look for smaller words inside larger ones.

Look for KEY CLUES

In the pictures or look for KEY WORDS.

BACKTRACK

Look back and read again

SKIP IT

Go on then guess from more information.

Build the word using letter sounds

Then re-read and

CHECK THAT IT SOUNDS CORRECT.

Search for SIMILARITIES

Do some words rhyme?

Do any others have the same letter pattern?

Try a POPPER

Look at the first letter of an unfamiliar word and continue reading. Often the word and continue reading. Often the word will just pop into your head.

Does it MAKE SENSE?

Think about what you have read so far and what you already know about the subject. What do you think the word **MIGHT** be? Does it make sense in the sentence?

