

Helping Your Child with Reading

Some Questions to ask about a book

Here are some questions that may help you to support your children's reading and enjoyment of the stories that they choose. It is not expected that you ask every question, every time they read a book to you! However, by choosing a few of the questions to ask your child during their reading, it will support their developing comprehension of what they read and ultimately, their enjoyment of the books that they choose.

Remember you do not only have to read books - you can also read magazines, comics, menus, posters, leaflets, information on signs etc

Choosing a book:

- Why did you choose this book?
- Did you like the picture on the front?
- Have you read other books by this author?
- What could this book be about?

Before reading the book:

- Can you point to the title? or What is this? (pointing to the title)
- What do you think this story will be about? What might happen in the story?
- What do we call the writing on the back of the book? (Blurb) or What does the blurb tell us?
- Talk about the different parts of the book (eg. Front cover, back cover, title, author, illustrator, blurb)
- If it is an information book ask them where you will find out about something specific (ie. can the child use the Contents page or Index to locate information?)



During the reading of the book:

Questions linked to the punctuation- model how to read it if your child gets stuck.

- There are speech marks here so the character is speaking - how would they say the sentence?
- That word is in capital letters - how should you read it?
- This sentence finishes with an exclamation mark - how should it be said?
- There is a full stop between the sentences- what must you do? (take a breath) now reread the sentence using the full stop
- Why are some words written in capital letters? Italics? Bold print? Different colour?

- Tell me what is happening in the pictures?
- What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen?
- What might happen next? How do you think the story might end?
- What sort of character is....? Is he/she friendly/ mean/ nice...?
- Ask children about events in the story: How would you feel if you had been that character? Has anything like that happened to you? Would you like that to happen to you?
- If reading an information book: What facts have you read? Have you learnt anything new? What does this page tell you About? Is there anything that interests you on this page?

Where would you go to find information about....? What was their favourite part? Why?

- Find the word that tells me what is doing?
- What word describes how feels?
- What was the most interesting/ exciting part of the book?

Can you find it?

- What sort of character is....?
- Why did that character do ... (give a situation/ event from the story)?
- What happened in the story?
- How did change during the story?
- Who are the main characters in the story? What character would you like to be? Why?
- Does this story remind you of anything that has happened to you?

Did you like this book? Why? (Encourage children to develop their opinion about books by encouraging them to explain their reasons)

Happy Reading!