



Top Tips for Sharing Stories and Nurturing a Love of Reading

At Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School we want every child to develop a life-long love of reading. Developing language and sharing stories with your child is the key to helping them learn to read and the first step to igniting their passion for books. Through our learning environment and direct teaching, staff ensure children are immersed in rich literacy experiences. Our reading and phonics curriculum builds on the knowledge and skills children acquire, providing them with opportunities to apply new learning and regularly share books they enjoy.

Staff at Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School are passionate about reading and we want to share some ‘top tips’ on how you can continue to foster this love and learning with your child at home.



Sharing Stories together regularly is a great way to introduce your child to the world of reading and has so many positive benefits...

- Reading with your two year old sets the foundation for later independent reading.
- It helps to stimulate the imagination and learn about the world.
- It provides an opportunity to introduce new vocabulary.
- It helps to improve focus and concentration.
- Reading with your child helps to deepen your bond as you share the experience of reading together.

Different ways you can share a book...

Sharing stories with your child can be a magical moment and there are lots of ways you can introduce books at home.

- **Make book sharing part of your routine**, do it first thing in the morning, after bath time, or before an afternoon nap.
- **Make it a moment**, find a comfy spot, get some blankets and take some time to be together.
- **You don't have to read the words**, you can change how you ‘read’ by focusing on the images instead of the text and talking about the different things you can see. This could help to encourage your child to join in with the story telling.
- **Start small**, start with a small book or read for five minutes to begin with. You don't need to read the whole book you can save some for later or the next day, it's all part of the magic.
- **Let your child turn the pages**. Let your little one get involved and turn the pages. Remind them when it's time to stop and pause in order to read the book and praise them when they have turned the page.

Did you know ??

Children often want to read a favourite story over and over again. This helps them learn the word order and link the written words to the story – which is the first step in learning to read!!

Children who are read to regularly at home perform better in maths, spelling and vocabulary tests when they are older than those who don't have these experiences.

Your child will come home each week with a book they have chosen from our school lending library. You are more than welcome to change these books more frequently. Just speak to your child's key worker who will be happy to help

Print is everywhere!!

Children live in a world full of print and see messages, logos and signs everywhere. Recognising their favourite place to eat, road signs or supermarket logo are the first steps in learning to read and write so point these out at every opportunity.



When you are out and about with your child, things like walking to nursery, look at the signs, symbols, logos and words you see. Encourage your child to point these out too and talk about any letters that are in their name or familiar words and help them to read them.



Signs of Learning

Your child is on the path to becoming a reader if they are:

looking at a book from front cover to back cover in the right direction

turning pages

recognising the print on the page

understanding that print carries meaning

tracing their finger over words from the top to the bottom of the page, in lines from left to right

talking about the pictures in books

recognising, or ascribing their own meanings to, signs, logos and other environmental print

While sharing books with your child is vital, their path to becoming a reader is also helped by engaging with 'environmental print'. This relates to words and symbols that we encounter in our everyday lives. For example:

Road and street signs.

Symbols such as arrows.

Logos for familiar brands.

Labels on items such as baked beans.

Draw your child's attention to these words and symbols in a fun, interactive way as they help your child to understand that print has meaning, and provide an opportunity to discuss letters and their sounds

Did you know ??

The more your child sees you read the more they will want to read too!

Point out to your child when you are reading messages, magazines, recipes, instructions or books and tell them why you are doing it.

We have also written guidance on the teaching of phonics which includes activities you can support your child with at home. This can be found on our school website and paper copies are available on request.

If you have any questions about your child's reading experiences or need any additional support to help your child at home please speak to your child's key worker who will be happy to help