



HOME READING

A Guide for Parents and Carers



Our Junior School Reading Program supports all students from Prep to Year 5 to learn to read. To help students improve their reading skills home readers are borrowed from the school throughout the week.

WHY DO WE ENCOURAGE HOME READING?

- *To become an effective and efficient reader who can read fluently and make meaning about what is being read.*
- *To do this, reading practice needs to be done daily. When fluent readers read, they read like they are talking to someone. Practicing reading aloud to an adult reader will help make the child a fluent reader.*
- *Your child is also trying to make sense of what is being read. Discussing the book with you will help your child to become an effective and efficient reader.*
- *Reading with your child is also precious one on one time. This is where the love of reading continues. It is a time to think about and talk about the book together.*

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD WITH THEIR HOME READING

- *Home reading with any aged child should be enjoyable for both the child and adult. If it becomes stressful, STOP! If the feeling is negative the child will see reading as a negative as well.*
- *The home reader book is meant to be easy. Your child should be able to recognise most words in their book (Errors of 1 in 10 words indicates an easy book).*
- *If the book borrowed is difficult, STOP! Read this book to your child and talk about the story.*
- *Establish a reading routine with a regular time and a comfortable place.*
- *The daily reading and discussion should take about 15 minutes.*
- *The same book can be read many times. It may become a favourite.*
- *Sometimes you can share the reading. You can read a page and then your child can read a page.*
- *If the vocabulary is difficult, explain the meaning and move on with the story. This is not the time for a lengthy vocabulary lesson or a spelling lesson.*
- *If the child does not understand the story, stop and explain the characters, their feelings, the action or events that are occurring.*

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Your child is becoming a reader. This does not mean you stop reading to your child whether they are 5 years old or much older. Their listening ability and understanding of what is read aloud is much greater than their own reading level. You are exposing them to new text types, new vocabulary and ideas. You are showing them your love of story and reading and being a model for good reading habits. Habits that your child will need for the rest of their life.

Here are some ideas for discussing fiction texts with your child

MAKE PREDICTIONS

- Have fun guessing what might happen in the story.
- You can make predictions before and during reading about characters and events in the story.



MAKE CONNECTIONS

Support your child to make connections by asking these questions during reading:

- *What does this book make you think about?*
- *What is another book that is similar to this book?*
- *Tell me what you know about this topic*



DISCUSSION

- Share your own thoughts and feelings about the book.
- Discuss similar situations which have happened or you know about.
- Promote discussion so that your child can share their thoughts about characters, events and illustrations.

QUESTIONING

Ask questions during and after reading. Make this an enjoyable conversation rather than a quiz.

Here are some examples of questions you could ask and discuss:

- *Who was the main character? Why do you think that?*
- *Why do you think that character acted that way?*
- *Do you know anyone like that?*
- *What was the problem in that story?*
- *Who solved the problem?*
- *How was the problem solved?*
- *What would you have done? Could that really happen?*
- *Why did the author use that title for the book?*
- *If you wrote this book, what title would you give it?*
- *Do you know what ... means? Why do you think that? That could be one of our new words to use.*
- *What questions do you have about the book?*



Reading with your child is a chance to make great memories

“Children are made readers on the laps of their parents”
Emilie Buchwald