



St. Gerard's Catholic School



**Reading with your
KS2 child**

We hope this booklet will help you with some of the questions you may have about reading with your child

Why reading and sharing stories matters

1. **It's the most important thing you can do to help your child succeed.**

Research evidence shows that your involvement in your child's reading and learning is more important than anything else in helping them to fulfil their potential.

2. **Books contain new words that will help build your child's language and understanding.**

Children who are familiar with books and stories before they start school are better prepared to cope with the demands of formal literacy teaching.

3. **Reading together is fun and helps build relationships.**
4. **The impact lasts a lifetime. Readers are more confident and have greater job opportunities.**

5. **Children learn by example, so if they see you reading, they are likely to want to join in.**

Reading with children, or talking about what they have read, is a wonderful way to show that it is an important and valued way to spend free time.

When children get stuck on particular words, try these strategies to work it out:

- Stretch out the words (or sound out).
- Look at picture clues.
- Read the other words around the one you don't know.
- Look for small words within a larger word that they already know.
- Use a second strategy when the first one doesn't work.

Give them lots of praise when they manage to work out a word for themselves.

Experts say that promoting reading at home is the most important way that parents can help their child. Make sure your child has regular reading practice and check they understand what they read. Here are some more tips on helping your child with reading:

- when you read to your child, make the experience interactive - ask questions about the story, the pictures, and what they think of the characters
- as their reading skills grow, gradually let them turn the tables until they're reading to you
- use dictionaries together for difficult words - a picture dictionary can make exploring language more interesting
- enrol your child at the local library so they can try new books regularly
- keep an eye out for the themes that catch your child's imagination at school - and help follow it up with more reading
- when you come across an unusual or funny-sounding word, help your child find out what it means.

As your child gets older, encourage them to pick up other books around the house to boost familiarity with 'grown-up' language. Suggest a reading list and encourage your child to write down thoughts on the books they have read.

- **Reading Together.**

Listen to your children read their books from school, but it's very important to keep reading to children.

- Try reading longer stories or chapter books that can be read a chapter each day. Help your child to read aloud with expression so the story comes to life. This will help them read more fluently.
- Ask your child questions about the story to check their understanding.
- Ask your child how they think the characters are feeling at different points during the story.
- Ask your child about the words chosen by the author.
- Read for information, not just stories for entertainment.

Make sure children see reading going on at home. Set a good example by reading for pleasure: newspapers, magazines, books etc. and talk about the reading you do at work and home. Encourage children to read directions when doing something at home and read signs and posters outside.

Thank you for your support.

Do's

Do give lots of praise.

Do find a quiet place to read.

Do try to read every day.

Do ignore mistakes if it doesn't change the meaning.

Do stop if either of you gets fed up or angry.

Do fill in or help your child to fill in their reading diary.

Do talk to us about your child's reading.

Do enjoy reading with your child.

Don'ts

Don't have the T.V. on at the same time.

Don't get cross or shout.

Suggestions for useful comments in the reading diary.

- He is getting used to reading past a word he doesn't know and then coming back to work it out.
- She read silently and only asked for help with the words _____ and _____.
- He is good at making guesses using the letters at the start of a word but doesn't always understand the story.
- She read all of the book and then retold the story in her own words.
- He was stuck on the word _____ but could read _____ and _____.
- She is good at looking at the beginning of a word for clues but sometimes needs reminding about the ending.
- He could answer lots of questions based on the story.
- She could find lots of wow words such as _____ and _____ used by the author.
- When reading he attempted to use different voices for the characters.

New reading diaries are available if your child has lost it at a cost of £1. If your child completes a reading diary a new one will be provided at no cost.

