

Primary Three and Four

Advice for parents:

Be guided by activities that your child's teacher is providing.

Enjoy reading with your child - read and share stories

When reading with your child encourage them to:

- ask questions;
- join in with rhymes/repetitive text;
- use of illustrations to support understanding of text;
- use prompts/cues within the story to encourage prediction/thinking skills;
- self-correct;
- talk about personal experiences related to the text;
- look for recognisable letters/words
- recognise and notice how words are constructed and spelt;
- express opinions and give reasons based on what they have read.

Asking questions BEFORE Reading:

- builds background knowledge
- allows new vocabulary to be reinforced
- engages the reader/listener with the text
- lays the groundwork for comprehension

What do you think this story will be about? Why do you think that? (do this after the child has had a chance to look at the cover of the book and title). What do you already know about the topic/subject of this book?

Asking questions DURING Reading:

- helps to monitor understanding of text
- keeps the reader/listener engaged with the text
- What questions do you have as you are reading/listening? What do you think is going to happen next? Why?

Asking Questions AFTER Reading:

- allows for reflection and analysis
- assesses comprehension
- extends thinking and literacy development
- What did you think of the story? Why do you think the author chose to end the story the way he/she did? If you were the author what way would you have finished the story?

When talking and listening encourage your child to:

- listen to others and respond;
- demonstrate some social conventions e.g. eye contact and turn-taking;
- use specific language;
- express thoughts, feelings and opinions in response to personal experiences; imaginary situations, literature, media and curricular topics and activities;
- present ideas and information with some structure and sequence;

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- think about what they say and how they say it;
- speak audibly and clearly, using appropriate quality of speech and voice.

When writing encourage your child to:

- talk about what they want to write;
- attempt independent writing;
- sound out words using their phonological awareness;
- spell correctly a range of familiar, important and regularly occurring words;
- refer to other texts/environmental print to support spellings;
- organise, structure and present ideas and information using traditional and digital means.