

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:

- express interests in and preferences for certain texts;
- reading aloud with expression and to assist meaning;
- read independently;
- understand text to showing some awareness of empathy by reflecting the thoughts and feelings of the characters;
- justify their responses by inference, deduction or reference to evidence within the text;
- use a range of sources to find, select and use ideas and information to investigate a topic;
- reflect, analyse and discuss the meaning of texts.

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/author 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 with concentration and asking questions to develop understanding
- to recognising the different uses of formal and informal language and dialect;
- retell stories, events and experiences keeping to the point and adapting and structuring contributions logically to suit the needs of the audience and purpose;
- explain and justify views and opinions.
- listen to others and respond,
- demonstrate some social conventions e.g. eye contact and turn-taking
- use specific language

Primary Five, Six and Seven

- 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;
- 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:

- use a range of vocabulary in their writing;
- talk about and plan what they are going to write;
- begin to check their work in relation to specific criteria;
- write without prompting, making their own decisions about form and content;
- write for a variety of purposes and audiences;
- express thoughts, feelings and opinions in imaginative and factual writing;
- organise, structure and present ideas and information using traditional and digital means;
- spell correctly a range of familiar, important and regularly occurring words;
- develop increasing competence in the use of grammar and punctuation;
- use a legible style of handwriting, for example, begin to join letters