



Reading is the **KEY** to learning

Don't forget to let your child's teacher know when you have shared a book with them by making a note in their reading record book. This helps us enormously by allowing us to see what the children choose to read and how often they are reading outside of school. We can then further reward children for reading at home with stickers, certificates, badges and prizes!

Finding and choosing books

Here are some useful websites and online resources to help you choose books for children, young people and adults. You might also like to ask in your local school or library for recommendations, or check your local library websites - many of them list recommended reads.

DfES Parents Centre www.parentscentre.gov.uk

Help them read www.helpthemread.co.uk

Help your child discover www.dfes.gov.uk/parents/discover/ Parent Link www.parentlink.co.uk

BBC Parenting website www.bbc.co.uk/parenting Booktrust www.booktrust.org.uk

Silly Books www.sillybooks.net

Guys Read www.guysread.com

Mrs Mad www.mrsmad.com

Bookheads <http://www.bookheads.org.uk/>

Books, Reading and Writing www.braw.org.uk Cool Reads www.cool-reads.co.uk

First Choice Books www.firstchoicebooks.org.uk Reading Matters www.readingmatters.co.uk Teen Reads www.teenreads.com

Love Reading www.lovereadng.co.uk



BERRYMEDE JUNIOR SCHOOL



Information for Parents Reading at Home

At Berrymede Junior School we know how important it is for teachers and parents to work together to give your child the best educational opportunities.

Reading together at home is one of the easiest but most important ways in which you can help and support your child.

Reading enhances children's learning and as children grow older they will become more reliant on these skills to support their learning in all of their other subjects.

All of the tests your child takes rely on their ability to read understand and respond, showing their understanding.

By continuing to share books at home and read together you can improve your child's reading skills, vocabulary, use of punctuation as well as understanding; show them how important and enjoyable reading is.

**Dream Big
READ!**

This booklet is a short guide to support you in making reading at home a success.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



How can I find the right book?

- Talk with your child and find out what sort of books he or she enjoys.
- Ask your child's teacher for tips on what they should be reading at parents evening.
- Talk with other parents and find out which books their children are enjoying reading.
- Find out about recommended books at libraries, bookshops and on book websites.

What do I do if my child picks a book that is too difficult for them to read independently?

- Children can enjoy more difficult books – even if they can't read them on their own.
- Read parts of it to them and talk about the ideas and pictures if there are any.
- Choose one of the ways to share a book from the list on the next page.

How do I find the time?

- Getting together for just 5 to 10 minutes a day or several times a week can have an incredibly positive impact on your child's confidence and achievement in reading.



My child can read fluently, can I still help?

- YES! Although children will often want to read independently when they become fluent readers there are still many things that you can do to support their reading development. Discuss with them what they have read – about the characters, about the plot, about the important parts of the story, about what they have learnt from the information, about their feelings as they read the story, why the author wrote the book or chose some of the language... for example:
 - Which part of the story did you like best? Why?
 - What do you think will happen next?
 - Would you like X as a friend? Why?
 - What do you think X should have done when..?
 - How do you think the story will end?
 - Was the information detailed enough?



How to encourage your child to read:

◉**Read while you are out and about** – There are many opportunities to read when you are out in the car, taking a walk or shopping in town.

◉**Encourage your child** to help you by reading signs and guiding the way.

◉**Read yourself!** It's great for your child to see you as a reader too! This could be anything from books, letters and e-mails to receipts, newspapers and magazines.



◉**Visit your library** – it's free to join! As well as taking out story books, use visits to the library as a time to find books about your child's hobbies and interests.

◉**Make time to read** - Set aside a time for reading for the family – after school or before bedtime. Encourage independent reading but don't be afraid to still tell a bedtime story. Bedtime stories create a feeling of security and love and make happy memories that we remember when we are older.

◉**Don't just read books** - Variety is great! **Encourage** your child to read newspapers, TV guides, comics, poems, shopping lists, road signs and magazines. Ask your child to find out information from the Yellow Pages, the Internet, cookery books, etc.



◉**Let your child read with younger children** – **Encourage** them to read to other members of the family.

◉**Talk about what they are reading.** – **Make time** to discuss what they like or don't like about the book they are reading.

Sharing Books

Sharing a book with a child, no matter how old, is fun! It is a time for closeness, laughing and talking together. It is a great time to involve everyone in the family. There are many ways to share a book, some of which are particularly suitable for reluctant readers or children who have chosen a book that is too difficult for them to read independently:

- An adult reads to a child.
- A child can read to an adult or older sibling.
- An adult can share the reading, line by line, paragraph by paragraph, page by page or chapter by chapter.
- The adult and the child can read together.
- Or you can try a mixture of the above.

