

Reading



Helping your child/children to develop a love of books and reading is a very special privilege. Today children have access to a range of different types of print and text all around them, e.g. phones, tablets, laptops, games consoles, as well as books, print on packaging and in the environment so we have a wealth of resources to draw on.

- Be a role-model yourself, let your child/children see that you value and enjoy reading, be that in the form of a book, paper, magazine, email, txt message. This sends out an important message that reading is an important skill to learn.
- Sing nursery rhymes together. The rhymes and rhythms in nursery rhymes are building blocks towards your child learning to read.
- Share books together in a quiet environment. Make sharing a book part of your daily routine, remember to choose a time when you are not too busy and can give your child/children your full attention.
- Try to choose good quality books/book apps for your child. Traditional stories like 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' are always popular. Authors like Julia Donalson (author of 'The Gruffalo') and Eric Carle ('The Very Hungry Caterpillar') are extremely popular with young children. Remember to join the local library in Erdington as each child can borrow up to 6-8 books per visit. We also have a fantastic new library in Birmingham city centre with a lovely children's section which is free to visit.
- Encourage your child/children to talk about what they can see in the pictures, let them make up their own narrative. Try and ask open-ended questions, i.e. questions that require more than a yes/no answer. Such questions usually begin with; what, where, who, why or how.
- Talk to your child about the front cover, back cover, the 'blurb' (writing) on the back. Encourage them to turn the pages carefully and respect the book.

- Ask your child/children if they can point to the writing on the page and when reading occasionally draw attention to the fact that we read print in English from left to right. This may be different in your home language so draw attention to this as well.
- Enjoy looking at the print in the book, especially if there are large/small words to emphasise the narrative in the story. Or make up a game and look for familiar letters in the text which are meaningful to your child, e.g. the initial letter for their name. Enjoy looking at the shape of the text/print as some words look a bit like their name, e.g. aeroplane.
- Look at print when you're out and about. Draw attention to road signs and road names; look at car registration numbers and letters and names of familiar shops/ restaurants.
- Remember to praise effort, e.g. "I loved the way you looked at the pictures" or "you tried really hard to sound out that word - well done!" Talk about the need to practice any new skill and that it's ok to make mistakes because that's how everyone learns. Encourage your child/children to feel proud of their efforts in order to build up resilience, determination and self-motivation.

References



Erdington Library - Orphanage Road, Birmingham, B24 9HD (closed Wednesday and Sunday)

Birmingham Central Library - Centenary Square, Birmingham City Centre. Open daily including Sundays see website for times - www.birmingham.gov.uk/centrallibrary.

For recommendations of good quality interactive book apps check out websites like www.parents.com. The one I talked about in the meetings is called "Nighty, night"

Remember to have fun learning and enjoy sharing time together.

Happy Reading!

