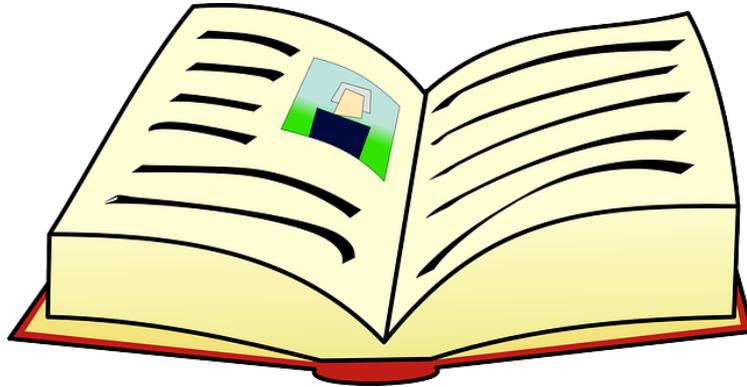


At Ellwood Primary School we encourage and value the time children spend reading at home.

This leaflet is an aid to help you achieve

# Reading matters!



Promoting partnerships between home and school

## Reading strategies

In order for children to become able and independent readers they need to have:

**Fluency**—children can read at a comfortable speed with appropriate expression.

**Accuracy**—they can decode words without interrupting the flow.

**Understanding**—they can follow the content of what they read (this is key to making progress in reading).

**Enjoyment and confidence**—reading because it is a useful and pleasurable activity.

## Higher order skills

Once children have a good knowledge of phonics and word building we move onto develop higher order reading skills. These are:

**Inference**—something that is not explicit in the text but is inferred.

**Deduction**—work out something from the clues from the text.

## Reading with your child

Every child is provided with at least one reading book, to read at home with their family but please also encourage your child to read all sorts of different texts, stories etc.

To gain the best results:

- Choose a time when you can relax and enjoy reading together
- Find a quiet place, if possible away from the television, music or computer
- Keep reading times short and fun
- Ask your child questions on what they have read

## What should I ask my child?

Discussing what has been read (books, comics, newspapers etc) is a really important part of reading. Discuss by exploring questions beginning with What? Why? Where? When? How? Who?

Then ask for their opinions on how they felt about the text.

- Who is the author? What other text have you read by this Author?
- Who is the illustrator?
- What is the main character's name?
- Where is the setting? Which word tells you the setting is.....?
- Why did the main character say that?
- How did that make the character feel? Why?

## Suggestions for reluctant readers

Reluctant readers become enthused when books are seen to have relevance to their other interests.

Possible things to try are:

- Keeping reading times short and fun
- Little and often is best so do not insist on reading a large amounts of text in one go
- Any interest in reading should be encouraged. Children should be encouraged to read any kind of text (even comics, sport reports, game instructions, recipes or cereal packets)
- Try sharing a book by reading one page each
- Ask children to read with a range of adults e.g. grandparents, siblings, uncles, aunties etc.

## What should I write in my child's reading record?

A common question from parents is, 'What should I write in my child's reading contact book?' The small comment (under parent comments) informs teachers of how your child's reading is progressing at home.

An example of a parent comment: 'Lee really enjoyed the story; he was able to break up unfamiliar words and read confidently with some help.'