

# Southwold Primary School and Early Years' Centre



## Reading at home

A guide to help parents and carers develop their child's reading ability through regular reading at home.



Reading is a crucial skill for your child to develop and master during their time at Southwold. Children read regularly at school, but it is very important that they read at home **at least** 3 times per week with help and support from their parents or carers or other adults.

From a very young age, children can be encouraged to love books and reading by sharing them with adults. Children of all ages and abilities need the encouragement and help of adults to help them become better readers and this guide will help you to understand how you can help your child read at home and develop into a confident and fluent reader.

### Top tips to help your child enjoy reading at home...

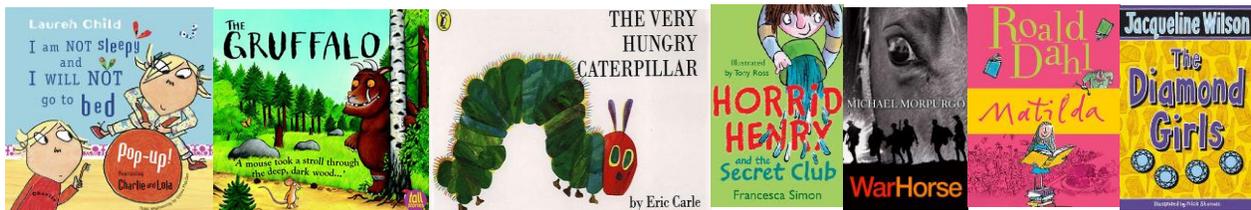
- Find a place at home where your child likes to read.
- Let your child hold the book and turn the pages.
- Limit your reading sessions to 15-20 minutes to keep your child's interest and enthusiasm. 5-10 minutes might be better for children in EYC.
- Enjoy reading as a family and show your child that reading is fun and enjoyable for everyone.
- Let your child choose their own books from school, the shop or the library.
- Turn the TV off and any other distractions.
- Talk about the story, pictures and characters.
- Not all books need to be difficult or a challenge to read.

**And don't forget to write in your child's reading diary! You can write about how well they read or how much they understood or which parts they enjoyed or new tricky words they read.**

Remember you don't need to do all of these ideas or ask all of these questions every time your child reads.

**Your child is reading a chosen book for the first time:**

- ✓ What is the title of the book?
- ✓ What kind of book is it - fiction (story)? non-fiction (fact)? poetry?
- ✓ Who is the author (writes the words)? Who is the illustrator (draws the pictures)?
- ✓ Have you read any other books by this author?
- ✓ What do you think the book is about? What will happen in the book? Read the blurb on the back.
- ✓ Have you read this book before? Why did you choose it again?

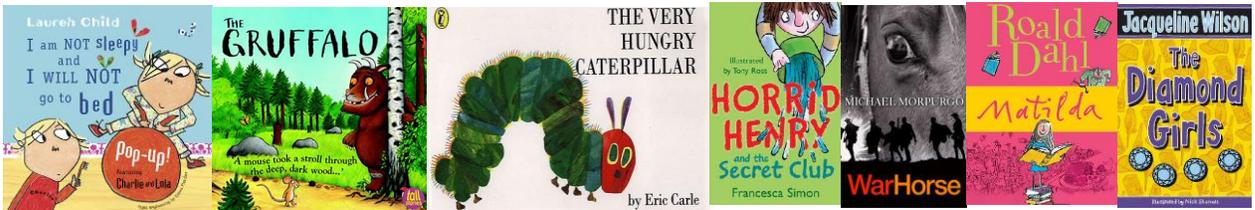


**Before your child starts to read:**

- ✓ What has happened so far? What have you found out so far?
- ✓ What do you think will happen next?
- ✓ Who is your favourite character?
- ✓ What is your favourite part of the book so far?
- ✓ Which characters do you like and dislike? Why?
- ✓ Have you read a book similar to this one before?

## When your child is reading the book:

- ✓ If your child gets stuck ask them what word would fit best, ask them or help them to sound the word out or if it's very tricky show them how to read the word.
- ✓ If your child misreads a word and it doesn't change the meaning of the sentence, that is ok (e.g. reads house instead of home).
- ✓ Encourage your child to look at the pictures and talk about them.
- ✓ Ask your child about what has happened in the story so far or what they have found out so far by reading the book.
- ✓ It is ok to point to the words or follow them with your finger.



## When your child has finished reading:

- ✓ Did you enjoy the book? Why? Why not?
- ✓ What was your favourite character? Why?
- ✓ What have you found out from reading the book?
- ✓ If you had written this book, how would you have made it better?
- ✓ Tell me about what happened in the book.
- ✓ Was the ending like you expected?
- ✓ Would you recommend this book to a friend?
- ✓ Can you use the index to find your favourite part of the book?

If your child is a fluent reader, it is still important that you ask them about the books they are reading to help them understand what they are reading.

Reading books they have already read before is absolutely fine and should be encouraged.

Read books online for free at [www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk)

Magazines, comics, newspapers, games and online books are good to read as well as books.

Make sure your child has their book bag at school every day and changes their reading books regularly.

Sometimes your child will like to read to older brothers and sisters.

Writing in the reading diary will be a step further to your child getting their RED TED prize

**And remember...**

**Learning to read fluently and confidently is one of the most important skills your child will ever learn.**

