

## Where else can you find support?

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading/helping-struggling-readers/>

<https://readingeggs.co.uk/articles/2018/09/16/teach-kids-to-read-at-home/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/making-time-for-books-at-home>

If you would like to find out any more information about how you can help your child with their reading, please contact their class teacher.



# Green Gates Primary School

How to help your child read for pleasure and purpose



The ability to read fluently, with understanding and for pleasure is the most important gift we can give to our children. For parents, learning about how we teach reading at school, supporting this process at home and enjoying sharing the written word with your children is one of the best ways of helping with their happy and successful progress through school.

We hope that this booklet will give you some useful background information and ideas about reading at home with your child. Please do not hesitate to come and see us if you need any further help or advice.

## First things first...

Helping your child with reading doesn't just mean listening to him / her reading a school reading book, although this is of course vitally important! Here are some other ways of developing reading skills in your child:



- Talk and listen to your child
- Make time for discussion – of a TV programme, a news item, a film, during a walk, over a meal, in the car, at bath-time
- Read stories, poems and other texts aloud to your child – and don't deny yourself the pleasure of reading more challenging texts to older children
- Let your child see you reading for purpose and pleasure
- Visit the library / bookshops
- Listen to talking books and stories on the radio or the internet
- Give your child access to a wide variety of written material: books, magazines, websites, recipes, instructions, TV guides, catalogues, games

**“Great books help you understand, and they help you feel understood.”**

**– John Green**

## General Strategies for Reading at home

- Find a really good time for reading practice – five minutes of quality time, when you can give your full attention to your child, is better than longer periods when neither of you are fully concentrating. Keep it fun!
- Talk about the book with your child before reading – you could introduce any words that you think your child will struggle with or any words he or she may not yet understand
- If your child is finding a book difficult, don't ask him / her to sound out every word - focus on words you know that your child can decode and add support with the others
- Give lots of praise
- Sometimes read with your child (paired reading) or take it in turns to read a page

“The more you read  
the more things you know.  
The more that you learn  
the more places you'll go.”  
-Dr. Seuss

## Book Talk

Book talk is a great way for you to help develop your child's reading comprehension skills and encourages you to engage in really meaningful discussion with your child about a text.

Don't feel as if you have to be firing questions at your child all the time. Try making statements about the book instead and allow your child to respond to your thoughts and ideas.

If it's all getting a bit too stressful...

- Try paired reading (taking it in turns to read a page / paragraph / chapter)
- Don't expect perfection – maintaining the sense of the book is more important than correcting every single mistake
- Keep reading sessions short and enjoyable – make them a really treasured part of the day!