

## How we can all help

There are a variety of different methods for you and your child to choose. Remember that reading should be relaxing and enjoyable. A good way to start is with a book that you loved reading as a child. Your affection for it will be picked up by your child and it will almost certainly become a favourite of theirs too.



**Paired reading** - place the book so that both of you can see it clearly. Let your child point out the words from below while you point from above - then you both read the story aloud, saying the words together. Model by making the story sound exciting. Don't worry if your child makes mistakes or doesn't know many words - just keep on reading and enjoy the story together.



**Shared reading** - this can be done in either of the following ways:

- Read the story first to your child and then let your child read, but do not correct every mistake he or she makes. If the words they use still keeps the meaning (home instead of house for example), that is fine. But if the meaning is lost then ask them to reread the sentence. When your child comes to an unknown word, wait a few seconds before supplying the word itself.
- Share the book with your child by reading alternately. This may be line or a page each.

Good luck and enjoy!

# HELPING YOUR CHILD TO READ IN RECEPTION AND YEAR 1

## *Introduction*

Learning to read is probably the most important element of your child's learning in Primary School. It opens a whole new world of understanding, feelings and imagination. The more you help support your child at home, the more pleasure he or she will gain while developing this vital skill.

When you share a book with your child at home, you are showing him or her that you think reading matters. You are giving your child your full attention and showing that reading is a special activity for both of you.

Your child will usually bring home a library book and a home school reader for you to enjoy together.



## *When, where and how often?*

Choose a time and a place which suits you both where you can feel relaxed and comfortable. Try to aim to read regularly (daily if possible) at a time when your child is not too tired. Remember to encourage your child to read but do not force participation.

Remember the more pleasure children get from books, the more they will want to read. Allow your child to join in with your own reading activities such as: websites, shopping lists, letters, newspapers, looking at television listings, reading recipes ....

Encourage your child to read print in the environment such as traffic signs, shop names, billboards, menus, advertisements, the print on cereal packets....