

## Fostering a love for reading...

A child's success as a reader begins much earlier than the first day of school. Reading, and a love for reading, begins at home.

We know how busy parents are! That's why we've put together this brochure of tips that offer easy ways for parents to help children become successful readers.

Home reading should be an enjoyable (and not stressful) time for both you and your child. Speak to your child's teacher if you have any concerns or queries about home reading or your child's reading progress in general.

Encourage your child to read everything – signs, notes, invitations, labels, messages, anything at all that will help them to see words and how they are used. Reading is for life, and an invaluable life skill.



Wynnum West State School

*Inspiring Young Minds for Success*



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## Helpful hints for reading at home with your child...



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## Before reading with your child

Talk about the book with your child before they read it.

1. **Look for clues and predict**—Look at the pictures on the cover and the title. Ask: “What do you think this book will be about?” “Who do you think the characters will be?”
2. **Picture Flick**—Go through the book page by page. Talk about the pictures and the words or ideas that might be in the book.
  - Point out a couple of words that may be difficult. Ask: “How will you remember these?”
  - Practice a couple of phrases that may not be something they have heard before. For example, “Where, oh where is teddy bear?” Usually these tricky phrases are written in book language and not how people speak in general conversation.

Now your child is ready to read the book.

## During reading with your child

Remember...reading is all about getting the meaning from the print. **Praise** all efforts in independent reading, especially if confidence is low.

When your child gets to an unknown word, give your child time to work it out. Five to ten seconds is reasonable. Then encourage your child to use one of the strategies listed below:

- Say it slowly and think what will **make sense**, **sound right** and **match** the letter it starts with.
- **Look at the first letter** and try to make a guess that matches.
- Look at the **picture clues**.
- Look for **parts of the word** you know.
- **Read-on** by missing out the unknown word and then going back to the start of the sentence to see what word would fit.
- **Re-read** and get your mouth ready to say that sound.

The strategies listed above are promoted and taught in our classrooms at Wynnum West.



## After reading with your child

After reading with your child, **talk** about the book. The following questions may be helpful with your child’s **comprehension** and whether they obtained **meaning** from the print.

1. Did you enjoy the book? Why? Why not?
2. Who were the characters? Which one was your favourite? Why? Describe this character.
3. Re-read your favourite page for me.
4. Could you think of a different ending?
5. Did you come across any tricky words? Can you find them again?
6. Are there any words you didn’t know the meaning of? Discuss.
7. Can you retell what happened in the story in your own words?

The aim is to make home reading an enjoyable and successful experience so if your child has difficulty with the text, we recommend keeping the book until your child is confident and achieves success. Alternatively, see your child’s teacher to discuss the level of difficulty. Happy reading!