

Reading at Home.

Following on from last half term, here are some more tips to help your child with reading. This time we are thinking about helping children Get ready to start reading. We do recognise that all children develop differently so if you feel your child is not ready for this yet, please revisit our suggestions for supporting earlier stages of reading development on the Nursery Website. www.newtownnursery.co.uk.



Starting to Read.

When your child starts to pay attention to the printed words in books that you read to them, on signs they see around them or the writing they see you do they may be getting ready to start to learn to read.

- Talk about words and letters and sound out simple words. Visit Debbie Hepplewhite websites on the internet to see how to sound out individual letters.
- Try to make time to read to your child every day. Although bedtime is an ideal time to do this, reading can be enjoyed at other times too, perhaps after lunch.
- Spending this quiet time with your child and giving them your full attention is crucial to their wellbeing and development.
- Read favourite stories again and again. Whilst some parents may find this frustrating children LOVE to hear those familiar stories read time and again. They may begin to join in with phrases or sentences from the story or have more understanding of the characters in the story and how they are feeling. It is important for your child to see you still reading the words even if you know them off by heart! Point to each word and sound out simple words. You could even point out the 'full stops' or 'exclamation marks'. Otherwise just retelling the story in your own words or better still your child retelling the story in their own words is helping to develop a key reading skill. You could talk more about the pictures or use them to make up a different story.
- Build confidence by reading lots of books that are similar and continue to re-read earlier books. If you try to push your child to look at books they are not interested in that are too
- unfamiliar or that are too hard, they will very likely lose interest. Even if you think a book is too easy to read for your child to read they need to feel the sense of achievement from 'reading' even simple words.

The most important thing of all is to enjoy reading with your child in a calm and relaxed manner. This will give them the strong messages that reading is fun and can be enjoyed by everyone.