

Welcome to your child's first reading book!

Wordless Books

The first few books your child will be bringing home will be wordless. These books are very important to your child's reading development. It is important the children get into a routine of sharing, talking about and understanding how books work including the order and direction in which they read, and the characters and events in them. Children will enjoy talking about the story and discussing what is happening in the pictures. These reading skills are often forgotten and are important to establish early on. The first step in reading is to use visual prompts to help read the words. The pictures provide lots of opportunities for playing with environmental sounds, an important first step in the teaching of phonics. Each of the wordless books has a prompt sheet at the back of the book to help you with this if you need it!



Books with words

When we feel they are ready we will start to send home books containing simple words and sentences. Most of the words are those the children will have encountered in their phonics sessions so they will be very excited that they can actually read some of the book! Every child is different and learns in different ways and at different rates so do not worry if your child does not receive a book with words at the same time as their friend.

Activities and ideas when sharing these books with your child:

- Respond to your child's ideas by repeating them back and introducing new words to increase their vocabulary.
- Look at the front cover and read the title to your child. Ask them what they think the story will be about? Relate the title back to your child i.e. 'The lost gloves' have they ever lost anything? or 'Puddles' what do you do when you see a puddle?
- Allow your child to turn the pages of the book and describe what they see in the pictures. You could take it in turns to tell a page of the story.
- Encourage your child to add sounds to accompany action in story and talk about any sounds that might be found in the story setting i.e. 'Feed the Birds' what sounds might you hear outside?
- Once you have finished sharing the book ask your child to retell the story in their own words.
- Did they enjoy the story? Why?
- Look at letters in words which may be in your child's name.
- Ask your child to point to different things on the page e.g. The angry man.

Recording in the Reading Diary

With your child's reading book you will find a reading diary. Each time you read with your child at home we ask you to please write in the reading diary recording how your child got on with the book they have been given. This gives us an idea in school of how your child has accessed the book at home and if we feel then the book needs changing. Children's reading packet should be sent to school every day.

Please can you spend about 10 minutes each day reading. It is important that you spend time little and often looking at and sharing stories together rather than long periods of time looking at all the books at once. We ask that parents read at home with their child a minimum of **3 times a week**. We will also be reading with your child during the week.

Reading with your child regularly at home is enormously beneficial for them. Working together, we should have your child reading happily by the end of the year.