

Benefits of reading

Reading has many benefits, including the following:

- **Improving concentration:** reading means sitting quietly, still and focussing on the story
- **Teaching children about the world:** children can learn about people, places and events that take place in the world around them, beyond their own experiences
- **Improving vocabulary and language skills:** children will learn new words, and can absorb information on how to structure sentences and use words effectively
- **Developing imagination and empathy:** reading allows children to transform descriptions into pictures of people, places and things
- **It is fun:** children that are exposed to reading from a young age will view books as an indulgence rather than a chore, and an opportunity to imagine themselves in the characters place.

Getting support

Speak to your child's teacher for more information on how to access audio phonics examples or go to the reading pages on our school website at:

<http://www.curbarprimary.co.uk/reading/>

<http://www.curbarprimary.co.uk/reading-in-the-early-years/>

Reading time

To ensure full attention and productive reading time, you should consider the following factors:

Set aside time

Find somewhere quiet without distractions, such as the TV, radio or computer.

Get your child to choose the book

They are more likely to engage with the book as it shows you care about their opinions. Your child may keep choosing the same book because it is a favourite – this is all part of the learning process and you can discuss your favourite parts together.

Sit together

Reading is an ideal opportunity to spend time together, and you can encourage your child to hold the book and turn the pages themselves.

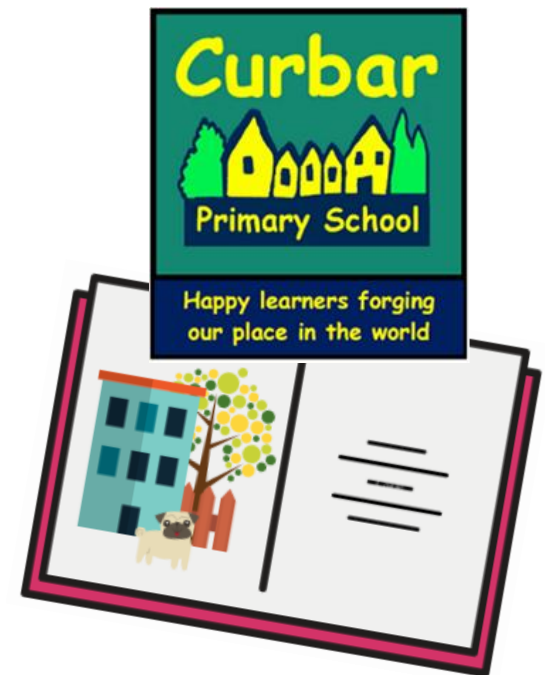
You can also encourage your child to read other forms of literature with you, such as newspapers, TV guides, comics, cookery books and magazines.

Encourage them to talk about the book

Before you even begin reading, talk about the cover. Ask your child what they think the book might be about. During or after reading, you can prompt discussions about the characters and their dilemmas; ask them what might happen next or how the character might be feeling.

Reading at home with your child

Leaflet for Parents



As a parent, you play an important role in helping your child learn to read. Encouraging your children to enjoy reading will benefit their education.

This leaflet contains advice on how to teach phonics at home, the benefits of reading together, and how you can ensure reading at home is an enjoyable learning process.



Learning phonics at home

Children are taught to approach literacy through synthetic phonics (explained below), while many of today's parents learned to read whole words.

It is important to use the same phonics techniques that are used in school to support your child's reading at home; these methods are as follows:

Words are broken down into the sounds they're made up of, before being blended together to form the word – this is synthetic phonics. An example of this is **dog** – children learn the sounds that the individual letters **d** - **o** - **g** make, and then learn how they blend to say **dog**.

At this stage in the learning process, the sounds that the letters make are important, not the letter names (e.g. try 'ah' and 'buh', **not** 'ay' or 'bee').

In the early stages of learning to read, children will learn single letter sounds (s, a, t, p, i, n) before moving on to more complicated sounds, such as 'oi', 'ou' and 'ai', or 'igh', 'ough' or 'eigh'.

Learning letter sounds is the first step – children then need to learn what to do with them. Start with simple words, such as cat or hop, and

gradually introduce longer and more complex words.

Some words, such as 'does', 'said', or 'friend', (also known as tricky words) cannot be decoded easily using phonics; instead, other strategies can be used to work these out.

Try looking at the context of the word, sounding out part of the word to work out the rest, or thinking of other words that look the same and could provide clues.

School books

Children will start to bring books home when they are in Reception – these may only be picture books until the basic letter sounds have been covered. Books with no words can be useful in getting children to discuss plots and characters.



If your child gets stuck on a word, give them time to try and work it out. If they begin to get frustrated, help them to sound the word out.

Children will focus on decoding words, so much so that they might miss the meaning of the text, and if they don't understand the story they are unlikely to enjoy it. You can read the sentence after them using expressions, or ask them questions about what they have just read.



Make reading fun!

Bedtime stories, audio books in the car and regular library visits will encourage children to retell their favourite stories, have opinions about books and authors, and predict what is likely to happen in a narrative.



When reading to your child, use different voices and expressions for different characters, or match sounds to pictures of animals or vehicles.

Play word games and sing nursery rhymes or songs together. The repetition of sounds will aid in developing your child's understanding. Games like Eye Spy can also be adapted to work with phonics.

Read street names on a walk home, or food packets in a supermarket – keeping the tasks varied will ensure your child continues to enjoy reading.