



## Some top tips for helping your child to read at home

### Create the right atmosphere.

- Find a quiet comfortable place to listen to your child read. It is difficult for reading to compete with the TV. Encourage reading as a distraction free activity.

### Choose books that are at the right level

- Help your child pick books that are not too difficult. The aim is to give your child lots of successful reading experiences.

### Use sound strategies to tackle a new word.

- Ask your child to sound out an unknown word. Look at the letters in a difficult word and have your child pronounce each sound, or phoneme. Then see if they can blend the sounds together to pronounce the word.
- Help your child memorize irregular words. Explain that words like *where*, *hour*, or *sign* are hard to sound out since they don't follow normal sound patterns. Point these words out when you're reading to help your child learn to recognize them on their own.

### One more time, with feeling

- When your child has sounded out an unfamiliar word, have them re-read that sentence. Often, children are so busy working out a word they lose the meaning of what they've just read.

### Be patient

- When your child is trying to sound out an unfamiliar word, give him or her time to do so. Give prompts for independent solving e.g. remind them to look at the first letter or letters of the word or ask "What would make sense there?" Do not keep stopping them to correct errors, it spoils the flow. At the end pick a specific thing that was great and then something to work on.

### Be a good role model.

- Let your child see you reading, and share your excitement when you enjoy a great book of your own.





### **Use the story to help your child learn.**

- Ask your child what word or idea would make sense in the plot of the story when they get stuck on an unfamiliar word.
- Encourage your child to look at illustrations, pictures, titles, or graphs to figure out the meaning of new words.

### **Make reading together a priority.**

- Whether it's 10 minutes every night before bed or an hour every Sunday morning, it helps to set aside a specific time for reading. This kind of special "together time" can go a long way toward getting your child interested in books.

### **Make reading fun.**

- Children may not get excited about the idea of quiet time spent curled up on the sofa. Playing around with funny voices to impersonate animals or unusual characters in stories. You'll get to release some tension, and your child will learn to think of reading as fun rather than work.

### **Keep reading aloud to your child.**

- Don't stop reading aloud to your child once she/he learns to read by herself. When you read to your child, you let them enjoy books that are beyond their independent reading level and build their vocabulary by exposing them to new words. Reading aloud is also a chance for you to model reading smoothly and with expression.

### **Be your child's number one fan**

- Be an enthusiastic listener when your child reads to you, giving them plenty of praise!



## Reading at St Peter's Methodist Primary School

Here at St Peter's we are committed to fostering a love of reading in our pupils. There is a strong culture of reading in our school community and our children talk often about how reading a good book enriches their lives.



This journey into reading starts with our youngest pupils and your child is ready to have their first reading book! This is an exciting time and we hope that the suggestions given within this guide will help you to get the most out of this early opportunity to show your child how amazing reading can be!

At St Peter's your child will be given a book from our reading scheme, which is made up of levelled Book Bands (see diagram below). Initially, your child's reading book will be changed once each week. Remember that you can read the book more than once through the week, encouraging more independence each time that your child reads it. Children will progress through the different colours of Book Bands when they are ready. This will be when the class teacher is confident that their decoding and comprehension skills are at the correct level, and is not based purely on having read every book in that stage. Your child may bring the same book home on more than one occasion. Revisiting a text is a good way to improve fluency.

Please ensure that both your child's reading and contact books are returned to school each day in your child's bookbag. If these are not in the bookbag, we may not be able to read with your child or swap their book when appropriate. When we read with your child at school we will date and initial, alongside a short comment in their contact book. It is so helpful for us to see how you are getting on with reading at home, so please do pop a comment in the contact book each time you read with your child.

Remember, 10-15 minutes reading at home each day will make a huge difference. Once your child has mastered the skill of reading fluently it is a key to all of their future learning.

We believe that reading should never be hard, and your child should always feel successful. We hope you enjoy starting on this exciting journey with your child. Please do come and talk to us, or pop into our new Early Bird Readers Club on a Wednesday morning, if we can help with anything!

Lilac	Pink	Red	Yellow	Blue	Green	Orange	Turquoise	Purple	Gold	White	Lime