

Reading at home with your child: FAQ

How do I get my child interested in reading?

- Model your love of reading to your child, let them see you read and talk about your reading likes with them.
- Read in a range of ways- audio books, stories online and movies from books can all get the children interested.
- Make reading fun, act out stories, take it in turns to read and use different voices.
- There are some great ideas from Julia Donaldson, the author of The Gruffalo, on this website: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/top-tips-3/julia-donaldsons-top-tips>

How do I do home reading when my child is reading a chapter book?

Your child will want to read the whole book but that doesn't mean you have to sit with them as they do. For the home reading session, read an extract only. For example, you could ask the child to find the most exciting part of the book, the most interesting, the solution to a problem or a part they don't understand.

How are the books my child brings home chosen?

At BHS we assess your child's reading both formally and informally throughout the year. We use standardised testing that enable us as teachers to identify your child's reading targets, the things that they need to improve on to become great readers. The home readers in school are banded by colours. The books in each colour are linked by a reading age. The children choose a book from a colour band independently.

What can I do to help my child choose different types of books?

Do you visit the local library? This is a great place to start getting your child to choose a range of books. Encourage them to try something new alongside something that they feel comfortable with. Ask your friends for recommendations and encourage your child to share books they like with their friends. There are lots of online book reviews and sites like <https://www.goodreads.com/> suggests books based on your likes.

How do I choose appropriate books for my child?

What is appropriate can differ depending on how your child will read the book. For example, is it a book for them to read alone or will they read it with you. Is it a book that they will grow up with? At school we encourage the children to do the following when they choose a book.

1. Look at the title and the summary. Ask is this something I am interested in?
2. Look at the pictures. Ask do I have questions about these? Do I want to know more?
3. If it is a book to read independently try the 5 finger rule. If you cannot understand five of the words on one page of the book it is probably too hard.

What does a home reading session look like?

Home reading should **not** see your child reading quietly then being asked 20 questions about their book. It is not about handwriting so do not ask them to write out the book. Home reading should be a fun, relaxed and **SHORT** session where you and your child explore a book together. Encourage your child to ask lots of questions before, during and after reading. Talk about the connections they make to the text and new words they have read. Ask them to retell

occasionally but not every time. Do not worry if you don't read the whole book together, you can always keep it for a few more days. Most of all talk about your child's reading with them to help develop their comprehension.