



Create a 'reading environment'

Reading can take place wherever your child likes to read – on the sofa, on a beanbag, hanging upside down, in the bath...the possibilities are truly endless! Anywhere that your child feels comfortable and *wants* to read, is the perfect place!

Reading alone

Reading alone (independently) is important for success and enjoyment. Having opportunities to read independently can be essential to your child's progress. Once your child has finished reading alone, it may be useful to ask them to summarise what they have just read, This helps children to process what they have read, as well as providing parent's with an opportunity to assess just how much children have understood. Children may ask about tricky vocabulary they have encountered during this conversation, so it might be handy to have a dictionary or Google on hand!

Before reading...

Talking before reading helps your child to sort out what they already know about the book. Discuss characters, storylines, key vocabulary and moments from the text so far. This will also help children to 'pick up where they left off' and ease them into the next chapter or section of the book.

A parent guide to reading at home.

After reading...

When your child has finished the page, section or chapter, talk about the story with them. Encourage children to retell or summarise what they have just read. Discuss the children's predictions for the next chapter or section of the story. It might also be handy to discuss any tricky language or vocabulary at this stage too.

Give praise

Praise is extremely important. Telling your child how well they are doing provides them with the motivation to keep going. You can't have too much praise! Be specific when giving praise, tell your child exactly *what* you liked, not just a generic 'well done'. This is more meaningful to your child and shows that you are genuinely interested.

Reading aloud

Having opportunities to read aloud can be just as important as time to read alone. Children should aim to be fluent and expressive readers, however it is okay not to be able to read every word instantly. At Monkton, we acknowledge that just because some of our children are not so fluent with reading aloud, doesn't mean they don't know fantastic understanding of what has been read. Practise makes perfect!

Developing a love of reading

Here are some of our ideas:

- Read yourself! It doesn't matter what it is – pick up a newspaper or magazine, take a look at a cookery book, read a computer manual, enjoy some poetry or dive into a romance or detective novel. And get your children to join in – if you're cooking, could they read the recipe? If you're watching TV, can they read out the listings?
- Give books as presents. And encourage your children and their friends to swap books with each other – it'll give them a chance to read new stories, and get them all talking about what they're reading.
- Visit the local library together. It's always fun choosing new books to read, and keep an eye out for special author events at the library or local bookshops – children love meeting their favourite authors. Jacqueline Wilson and Anthony Horowitz always have signing queues that are miles long!
- Encourage children to carry a book at all times. That way, they'll never be bored (this is something you can do, too!)
- Have a family bookshelf. If you can, have bookshelves in your children's bedrooms, too.
- Keep reading together. Just because your children are older, it doesn't mean you have to stop sharing stories – perhaps you could try the Harry Potter series or *A Series of Unfortunate Events*.
- Don't panic if your child reads the same book over and over again. Let's be honest - we've all done it!



Questions to ask your child when reading together

Questions to ask before you read

- Can you look at the pictures and predict what you think will happen in this book? What makes you think that?
- What characters do you think might be in our story?

Questions to ask during the reading

- What do you think will happen next?
- What can you tell me about the story so far?
- Can you predict how the story will end?
- Why do you think the character did _____?
- What would you have done if you were the character?
- How would you have felt if you were the character? (use different characters)
- Can you put what you've just read in your own words?

Questions to ask after reading

- Were your predictions about the story correct?
- What was your favourite part of the story?
- If you could change one thing in the story, what would it be?
- Can you retell the story in order?
- If you were _____, how would you have felt?
- What is the most interesting situation in the story?
- Is there a character in the story like you? How are you alike?
- Why did you like this book?