

# Reading — How serious are you, as a parent about ,your son's reading ?

Dear Parents

We are embarking on a serious “Reading Drive.” We can’t do this on our own and require your assistance in this partnership to instil a reading culture in our boys. Today books compete with cellphones, play-stations, TV and computers for your son’s time. Books can open up a new world for him if he is prepared to open a book and read.

Mrs Handley recently shared this material with me and I think you will find it very beneficial. Please read this carefully and make the time to apply it. It is titled **“How can I help my child with his reading?”**

Parents who want to help their children at home might like to consider these points. To ensure that the learning time is most valuable. You need to arrange:

- 1 **The right time:** Establish a routine so that you can spend TEN minutes together EVERY DAY and let NOTHING interfere with that time.
- 2 **The right place:** A quiet room, shut off from the other family activities for that time, where the rest of the family will not interrupt.
- 3 **The right book :** If your child is reading to you, make sure that the book is not too difficult, and is interesting to him. If he makes six or seven mistakes on one page, it is too difficult, and it may be necessary to read it to him. In any case it is sometimes a good idea for each one of you to read one page - the story will go more quickly that way. Go to the library with him and help him choose a book he wants to read. Reluctant readers often prefer non-fiction.

You can learn to help your son with reading by:

- 1 **Pausing** before correcting a mistake. Let him try to correct it first. If he is battling , help him to sound out the word. Point out the beginning or end sound or a familiar blend. Try not to do it for him.
- 2 **Help him to predict** an unfamiliar word by using contextual clues –what would fit into the context of the sentence by looking forward and back along the line if it is not easy to sound the word.
- 3 **Give sincere praise** when he manages on his own. This is worth far more than scolding when he gets it wrong. Keep the atmosphere pleasant; he will learn far more than if the two of you are fighting. He will look forward to your time together.
- 4 **Asking questions** about what he has read— get him interested in the story himself. You could guess what would happen next. Say which character you like best and why. Ask his opinion on aspects of the book.

If you are sure that you only work for ten minutes, but that it is ten minutes well spent, you’ll both feel good about it. Show him that you enjoy reading and he will too. Professor David Mac Kellar made this statement in a recent article on reading. “ Their reading skills can improve the quality of their lives—that is what we are talking about.” We are committed to promoting reading at Selborne Primary, are YOU prepared to do the same at home? Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Yours sincerely  
Abrie Pepler — HOD Senior Department.