

Beginning Reading



Learning to read is a very complex task.

Many factors including our **exposure to language** through communication with family and friends and **background experiences** contribute to the process.

Early and continued exposure to literature further develops a child's experiences of the world and builds on known vocabulary..

In the earliest phase of reading development (**Role Play**) children become aware of books and the joy that reading brings. They will sit and turn the pages either making up the story from pictures or telling the story from memory.

In the **Experimental Phase** the reader is able to recognise some words and letters but still relies heavily on memory of the story, picture cues and background experience.

Early Readers may read slowly and deliberately as they focus on reading exactly what is on the page. They learn to use strategies such as “having a go”, and “sounding out” to decode words and begin to build a bank of sight words

It is important to remember that learning to read, like learning to walk and talk will only happen when the child is developmentally ready.

“The single most important action for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading to reading aloud to children” *Becoming a Nation of Readers* (USA 1985).

When you read to your child:

Before Reading

- Predict – talk about the title and front cover. Ask “What do you think this story is about?”
- “Look through the book and discuss the pictures

During Reading

- Discuss unknown words or new concepts
- Think about what will happen next?

After Reading

- Talk about your favourite part
- What was the problem? – How was it solved?
- How the characters acted.

Useful web sites for beginning readers:

www.readingeggs.com

www.starfall.com

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