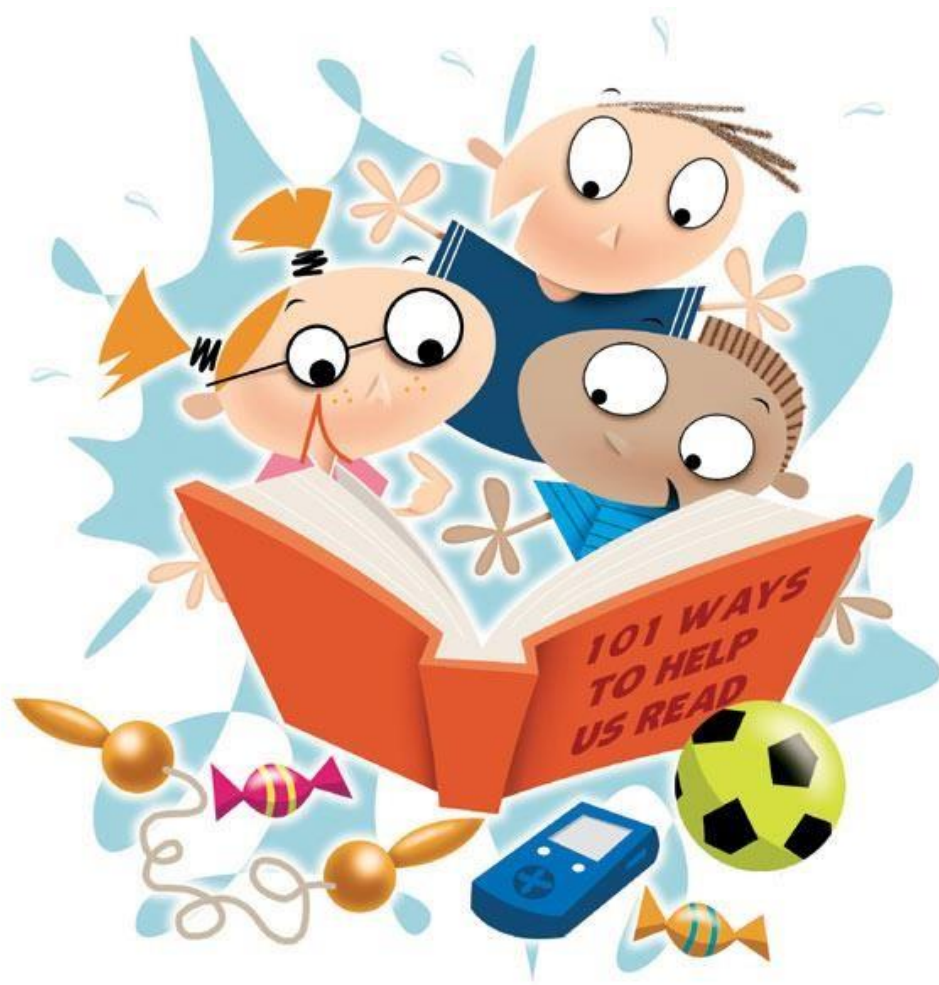


A quick guide to  
**reading**  
at home



Semley CE VA Primary School

# IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

- ☺ An enjoyable ten minutes beats a difficult half hour.
- ☺ Be patient and allow children to try without interrupting.
- ☺ Follow the words with a finger or ruler.
- ☺ Explain what you enjoyed about their reading.
- ☺ Have fun! We all learn more when we **enjoy** what we are reading.
- ☺ Read a range of books.
- ☺ Join in and read bits (with silly voices for the characters).

## STRATEGIES AND READING BEHAVIOURS

In school, we teach a range of strategies to help children decode unknown words.

- Sound out the phonics of the word.
- Look at the pictures for clues.
- Read the whole sentence and guess what word might fit. □ Chunk up the word – is there a prefix or a suffix I recognise?

As children's reading skills develop, they adopt a range of good reading behaviours.

- Re-reading to correct and check, thereby recognising errors (*"that can't be right!"*).
- Making meaningful, but not always accurate guesses.
- Reading with expression.



**As children progress further they:**

- Use the punctuation;
- Follow the print with their eyes; □ Search for more information in the print; □ Infer meaning.

## 6 STEPS TO HELP YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND

### 1. Activate prior knowledge.

Have you ever had to take your muddy footwear off before going inside?

### 2. Clarifying

What are overalls?

### 3. Summarising

What three things must Paul do before eating dinner with Alice?

### 4. Questioning

Think of a question you could ask a friend about this text?

### 5. Predicting

Predict how Alice might react if Paul dropped his towel on the floor after showering. **6. Inference**

What type of job might Paul do?

### Example text

Every day after work, Paul took his muddy boots off on the steps of the front porch. Alice would have a fit if the boots made it so far as the welcome mat. He then took off his dusty overalls and threw them into a plastic bin bag; Alice left a new bin bag tied to the porch railing for him every morning. On his way in the house, he dropped the bin bag off at the washing machine and went straight up the stairs to the shower as he was instructed. He would eat dinner with her after he was "presentable," as Alice had often said.

## QUESTIONS TO HELP TALK ABOUT THE BOOKS

### Book introduction

Who wrote the book? / Who is the author?

What can you see on the front cover?

What do you think this book is going to be about?

What do you think might happen at the end?

Does the blurb on the back give us any clues?      Where does the story take place?      Who do you think the characters are going to be?      What did she/he/it look like?

### Understanding what you've read

What do you think is happening here?

What happened in the story?

What might that mean?

Which words did you like? Why?

### Giving reasons

What makes you think that?

How do you feel about...?

Can you explain why?

I wonder why the author...?

Which words has the author used to show that this character is      What was your favourite part?      funny/upset/kind...?  
Where did she/he/it live?

### Discussing the story

Could this book be better? How?

Is it as good as...?

Which did you prefer? Why?

Who was your favourite character?

What was your favourite part?      funny/upset/kind...?



## AND ASK YOURSELF...

Do they see you reading for pleasure?

Do they still hear you read to them every night?

Are they allowed to choose their own books that truly interest them?

Are you happy for them to sit where and how they like to read sometimes?

Are you able to get to and join the library?

Do they have a special book to call their own?

