

Great reading materials at affordable prices

Not sure what books to buy?

Speak to your child's teacher and ask their suggestions. Check the Darlinghurst school website for links to children's book awards. These list books which were shortlisted for or won awards over the years. Visit Southend's new £30million library, which is just behind the High Street. Browse bookstores like Waterstones and WH Smiths and flick through the pages. If you both like a book, search for other titles by the same author.

Find books are pretty expensive?

Websites like www.amazon.co.uk and www.ebay.co.uk are a great source of new and cheaper second hand books, which are great for every day reading. The condition of books will also be listed which is helpful if you are buying a book as a present. Both companies have apps so you can even search and make purchases from a smartphone and have them delivered straight to your door.

Reading is not just a job for mum!

Dads should also read books to and with their children. Studies have shown that this has a HUGE positive impact on a child's later reading skills. It is especially important to set up routines if dad isn't able to see the child every day. Grandparents and older brother and sisters can also help out!

Value every reading experience , however small: magazines, comics, newspapers, leaflets, games instructions, menus, shopping lists.

Let your child see you reading for pleasure sometimes! If you don't, why would they?



TIPS FOR READING WITH YOUR CHILD: KS1 and KS2



As parents, you are the most important people in your children's lives. The things you do and say have a huge effect on their attitude towards learning and their confidence. Setting aside time each day to share a book with your child will lay a solid foundation for their future learning.

Tips for all readers

- Work out a routine you can stick to so you are reading with your child at least a few times a week
- Find somewhere quiet where you can both sit comfortably and can both see the book - then they can't skip when they're stuck!
- If and when you read *to* them, try to read with expression, make the noises, change your voice to suit different characters - anything you can think of that makes reading fun!

Tips for helping emergent readers **(still learning to break words down or 'decode')**

- You read; your child follows. This models to children how good reading should sound. Try read out loud together
- You read some, your child reads some
- Help out with the sound at the start of words when they get stuck
- Help them break a word down into its smallest 'sounds'. You could even hide some of the other letters in the word with your finger and reveal more as they work along
- Stop reading and ask your child to retell the story so far
- Discuss the cover and illustrations. Do they like them? What do they show?
- Ask if it had a good ending

Tips for newly independent readers

- You read some; your child reads more
- Always look at the pages with them so you can see if they are saying the wrong word or skipping bits
- Encourage self-correction; give them a good few moments of struggling before helping them break the word up into its smallest 'sounds' in case they can do it themselves

- Ask your child to retell the story so far
- Discuss the characters: 'What is he like?'; 'Why did she do that?'
- Discuss the plot: 'Did you think that would happen?'; 'What might happen next?'
- Did you enjoy it? (Like films and computer games, they won't like them all and that is ok!)
- Non-fiction (fact) books are great to read and many boys actually prefer them to stories but it is important they read stories too in order to feed their imagination

Tips for confident, independent readers

- Still make time to listen to them – they will be coming across harder words and more complicated plots and still need support
- Continue to look at the pages with them so you can see if they misread words or skip parts
- Start by asking them to tell you what has happened since the last time you read with them
- Ask more 'why' and 'how' questions, especially ask them to consider the author's choice of words, selection of information, relationships between characters etc.
- Often more sophisticated stories have sub-plots. Is your child picking up on them?
- The more able readers should be encouraged to read different styles of text – historical, traditional, fantasy, stories with a moral, non-fiction (fact books and reports), adventures etc.
- Children considering taking the 11+ once they are in Year 6 should consider reading stories widely considered children's 'classics'. These texts are often used for the reading comprehension element of the exam and can be quite a step up in challenge for many.