



Early Reading Guide

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Early Reading at Kirton Lindsey Primary School

At Kirton Lindsey Primary School we aim to inspire children to become life long readers and to enjoy reading for pleasure, both in school and at home. Children in our school are encouraged to regularly read and share books at home as well as school. In the Early Years and Key Stage 1 children choose books from the school's reading stock, which is arranged into groups of books that support the children's developing knowledge of phonemes and high frequency words, and is in line with the school phonics programme. Home reading books are aimed at increasing the children's confidence in applying phonics skills and are matched to a suitable level for the child's early phonics ability. Supporting the children to secure their phonological knowledge helps the children to become skilled readers and prepares them to move on to different levels of reading as they progress through the school.

We aim for children at our school to read because they want to and support them to enjoy the wonderful world of books.



A Guide to Supporting Early Reading Skills

Why is it important for my child to read?

The ability to read is vital. It paves the way to success in learning and life, which can build self-confidence and motivate your child to become a life-long learner. Reading can also be a pleasure and time of enjoyment.

How quickly will my child learn to read?

Learning to read does not happen all at once. It involves a series of stages that lead, over time, to independent reading and to fluency this includes the children developing a good knowledge of phonics. The best time for children to start learning to read is when they are very young, usually at the preschool level. This is when they are best able to start developing basic reading skills and phonological awareness. It takes time to develop the skills needed, and your child will need plenty of guidance and support as they progress. You can play a leading role in helping your child acquire the reading skills they need to succeed! We will provide you with the information you need to understand what your child is learning at each stage.

How can I help my child?

As a parent/carer, you are your child's first and most important teacher. When you help your child learn to read, you are opening the door to a world of books and learning. Reading aloud to children is the best way to get them interested in

reading. Eventually they will want to read on their own. It's natural to want to compare your child's reading abilities with those of other children of the same age, but not all children develop reading skills at the same pace. What's important is that you are aware of your child's abilities so that you can choose books and activities that will help him or her improve.



What tips can I use to help my child learn to read?

1. Talk to your child – Spoken language is the foundation for reading. Listening and speaking are a child's first introduction to language. Talking and singing teach your child the sounds of language, making it easier for him or her to learn how to read.

2. Make reading fun – Reading aloud can be a lot of fun, not just for parents/carers but for all family members. For example, use different voices for different characters in the story, make puppets and use them to act out a story or read stories that have repetitive parts and encourage your child to join in. Read all kinds of material – stories, poems, information books, magazine and newspaper articles, and comics. Encourage relatives and friends to give your child books as gifts. The more you enjoy the reading experience, the more your child will enjoy it.

3. Read regularly – Children love routine, and reading is something that you and your child can look forward to every day. By taking the time to read with your child, you show them that reading is important and fun to do. Try to read with your child as often as possible. Set aside a special time each day when you can give your full attention to reading with your child. Choose a comfortable spot to read, make it your "reading place". Read slowly so that your child can form a mental picture of what is happening in the story. Encourage your child when they share their ideas and participate.

4. Set an example (Reading role model) – As a parent/carers, you are your child's most important role model. If your child sees you reading, especially for pleasure or information, he or she will understand that reading is a worthwhile activity.

5. Talk about books – Talking about the books you read is just as important as reading them. Discussing a story or a book with your child helps your child understand it and connect it to their own experience of life. It also helps enrich your child's vocabulary with new words and phrases. Encourage your child to ask questions and to comment on the story and pictures in a book – before, during, and after reading it. Look at the cover and the title of a book with your child and ask your child what he or she thinks might happen in the story. Encourage your child to think critically about the story. Do they agree or disagree with the author? Why?

6. Listen to your child read – As your child learns to read, listen to them read aloud. Reading to you gives your child a chance to practise and to improve their reading skills. As you listen to your child, remember that your reactions are

important. Above all, listen without interrupting. Be enthusiastic and encourage your child as often as you can. If possible, be specific with your encouragement so that your child knows what they are doing well. Show your child that you are enjoying the story by indicating interest and by asking questions. Give your child time to figure out tricky words, and show your child how he or she can learn from mistakes. Try to have your child read aloud to you at times when there will be no interruptions. Encourage your child to "listen" to his or her own reading. Listening will help them hear mistakes and try to fix them.

7. Apply phonics knowledge – Support your child to use the phonologically knowledge they have learnt and use it to blend and segment words they are unsure of. Using their growing knowledge of phonemes and graphemes should make reading books easier and help your child to gain confidence.

8. Show that you value your child's efforts – Remember, your child needs to know that you value his or her efforts. Children learn to read over time, with lots of practise and support from parents/carers and teachers. Be patient and flexible in your efforts to help your child. Show your child that you see him or her as a growing reader.



Questions about Early Reading in School

Why does my child have a home reading book without words?

Sharing stories with young children is widely acknowledged to be key in their development of literacy and communication skills. In books without words, the story emerges through exploring the illustrations, rather than the words on the page. This leaves the child free to become more involved in the storytelling process, by naming the characters, spotting details in the pictures or relating the story to their own experiences. Picture books without words can increase the child's vocabulary more than traditional books, they encourage the use of more complex language, describing objects and relating them to real life experiences rather than just naming them. Wordless books allow children to tell stories themselves, encouraging them to use their own words rather than being constrained by words written on a page.

What questions should I ask my child while they are reading?

Encourage is important whilst reading with your children and asking questions will help your child to understand the story more and extend their thinking. Here are some examples of the types of questions to ask your child at reading time:-

Before reading the book

- Can you point to the title? or What is this? (pointing to the title)
- Discuss the author's name. What is the author's job? or What does the author of this book do?
- What can you see on the front cover? (Discuss the images)

- What do you think this story will be about?
- What might happen in the story?
- Who is in the story? or Who are the characters in the story?

During the reading of the book

- What is happening here?
- What is (character name) doing?
- What might happen next?
- How do you think the story might end?
- Is (character name) friendly / mean / nice...?
- What does (word from the book) mean? (To check understanding of a word.)

At the end of the book

- Did you like this book? Why?
- What was your favourite part? Why?
- Which character did you like the best? Why?
- Why did that character do (give a situation / event from the story)?
- What happened in the story?



What is phonics?

When your child is learning to read and spell we use a system of teaching called phonics. This teaches the children to use pure letter sounds (phonemes) to blend and segment words. It also teaches the children tricky words in the English language that they can not sound out, e.g. was, the, my. When reading with your child you can support them by reinforcing phonics skills they will have learnt in school. *For more information about phonics please see our 'Phonics Information and Guide' booklet.*

What book will my child read in school and at home?

During Early Years and Year 1 whilst the children are learning the majority of the new phonemes and high frequency words in our phonics programme the children will read 3 types of books. Each type of book is part of our early reading curriculum and supports different elements of your child's reading development :-

1. Home Phonics Reading Book – A book that will be sent home for the whole week for children and adults to read and re-read several times. This book will not contain any new or unknown phonemes or words but will focus on the children practising blending and segmenting words they should have the knowledge to decode, and read tricky words they have been taught to recognise in our phonics sessions. This book may seem easy for some children to read but this will mean they have a good knowledge of the phonics contained in the book and is a positive sign that the children are remembering what they have learnt in school.

2. Home Sharing Book – This is a free choice book the children can select from our classroom book stock and will be a story the children will most likely not be

able to read independently, therefore it is an opportunity for an adult at home to read and share a story together with the child. This book is changed as often as the child would like. Of course shared reading is not limited to only the classroom books and you will be free to use books from home, the library or other sources. The purpose of this reading is to enjoy stories together and expose children to 'book talk' and vocabulary beyond that which they can read themselves.

3. Guided Reading Book – This is a book that is solely used in school and is part of our focus learning activities. Early Years staff will work with small groups of children and, in some cases, 1to1 with a child, to read a text and help them to practise their phonics skills and develop their reading comprehension knowledge.

What happens when my child becomes a more confident reader?

As your child begins to develop their skills in reader and have a secure knowledge of phonics they start the school's Accelerated Reader scheme. This usual happens at the start of Year 2 or if the child is ready at the end of Year 1. Accelerated Reader is a program that helps teachers and senior leaders manage and monitor children's process with their independent reading practice. It helps children to pick a book at their own level and through short online quizzes it indicates that your child has understood what they have read. Teachers can then uses this information to help set targets and support your child's reading development. Accelerated Reader helps to ensure that the children's independent reading practice is appropriate and effective.

Rewards for Reading

At Kirton Lindsey Primary School, we understand the value of reading and want to do all we can to engage the children with books and motivate them to want to read from the very start of their education. In order to do this, we have developed a scheme for our youngest readers called 'Reading Bears'.

At the start of Early Years the children will receive a Reading Bear. With a member of staff they will think about what the bear might like to read with the child and where the bear might like to read with the child (e.g. bedroom, car, sofa at home – we are sure the children will have lots of their own ideas). The children will also name their bear and a sticker will be stuck to their Home Reading Record with the bear's name. This will be revisited at the start of Year 1 with the same bear.

Every week if children read to their bear 3 or more times a week and it is recorded in their Reading Record they receive a Reading Star Award. This is: -

- A sticker in their Reading Record
- A Reading Star ticket which goes into the raffle box
- The child receives a small sweet.



The names of children receiving a weekly Reading Star are celebrated on a class list and shared with the school's Early Reading Leader. If 80% of the class or more earn a weekly Reading Stars they receive a reward of some extra playtime. At the end of each half term the children will attend a special Reading Bear assembly to celebrate the children's reading achievements over the term. The children that have achieved their weekly Reading Stars 80% or more of the time over the half term will receive an invite to a Reading Bear's Picnic. Also the Reading Star raffle will be drawn and the winning children will receive a free book from the school Book Shop.



Kirton Book Shop

At Kirton Lindsey Primary School one of the school's key focus areas is to continually improve the children's skills and interest in reading, especially to develop their passion to read for pleasure. Reading for pleasure is an important element of the school curriculum. Our reading aim at Kirton Lindsey Primary School is, **'We read because we want to!'** and we want to support all children to become life long lovers of books. As part of our drive to increase the number of children who read for pleasure, we have the Kirton Lindsey Primary School Book Shop. The aim of the Book Shop is, not only to nurture the love of books, but also to introduce the children to the life skill of learning to save money.



**If you have any comments or questions please do not
hesitate to contact the school.**

**More information about our school can be found on
our website**

www.kirtonlindseyschool.co.uk



Booklet Produced: November 2019