

What if? Worries and anxieties.

I am really busy and I don't have time to read with my child.

10 minutes a day or even a few times a week will make a real difference to your child's reading. Have a look at the 'instant ideas' for some of the quick things you can do.

My son doesn't like reading. What can I do?

Try to find things for him to read that are about his interest and, let him choose what he wants to read. Magazines, comics and non-fiction books might be more interesting to him. Use the internet and computer games as you still have to read and follow instructions with this.

My child keeps reading the same books over and over again.

Children often re-read books they have enjoyed. Reading the same books or same type of books helps them build reading confidence and children will usually move on at their own pace. Don't stop them reading books again - if you tell children what they can and can't read, it can put them off.

My child has problems with reading. How do I help?

If you are worried that your child is struggling with reading, it is best to make an appointment with your child's teacher. Remember we are always available to talk to you about your child. However, it is better to make an appointment so that we can have quality time to talk to you about your child after the school day.



School Vision

We nurture and develop children's love of learning through an innovative and creative school environment. Our distinctive Christian Ethos permeates all aspects of school life, developing confident and respectful learners. We value the importance of being at the heart of the community, linking school, church and families, past, present, and future. Our forward looking school aims to be challenging and inspiring, enabling children to develop the independence to guide them through life as citizens of the world.



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Supporting your child with Reading



**Olveston C.E.V.C.
Primary School**

Lifelong learning,
striving for excellence



It's great when the
best way to learn
is the most fun
too!

Why do I need to help my child with their reading?

Even though schools teach children how to read, parents have a very important role to play. Research shows that parents who get involved in their child's education make a big difference as to how well their children do.

Instant ideas for improving your child's reading.

- Get your child to spot letters they recognise (such as the first letter of their name) in words.
- Encourage your child to read the words on food packets when you are unpacking shopping or cooking.
- Spend 10 minutes a day reading a book together or talking about the pictures and making up your own story. Books are a great way to pass time on the bus or while you are waiting to see the doctor. Reading in any language helps children with their literacy.
- Sing nursery rhymes and sing songs together.
- Put books in your child's toy box.

Try making time to:

- Create a collage of the alphabet together by cutting up old newspapers and magazines.
- Label familiar objects around the house with post-it notes or signs.
- Have a longer reading session together. Get your child to choose a selection of their favourite books. You could use a story tape.

What should I know?

Children often learn stories off by heart so that they seem to 'read' a book. This is normal and means your child is well on the way to becoming a reader. It shows they understand the connection between the words in print and the story.

Children will often want to read the same book over and over again. This shows that they are enjoying the book and getting real pleasure from reading. If it is driving you mad, you could read the favourite book and then read one of *your* favourites too.

Learning at Home

Instant ideas :

- Get your children to make up plays. When a friend comes round they could put on a show for you. They could write the scene themselves or use books to help them with ideas.
- Let your child choose books that *they* want to read. It is free to join the library and books can be borrowed for free as well.
- Buy books as presents as well as toys, and encourage friends and relatives to do the same.
- Use pop-up or lift-the-flap books to get even reluctant readers interested. These are great fun.

Try making time to:

- Learn new words together.
- Read a book together that you know well, and miss out words. Encourage your child to fill in the blanks with a word of their own. This will help you see how much they understand.
- Go to an event at your local library together. Libraries often hold free fun events and also have free internet access.
- Get your child interested in cooking by making a cake together using a recipe or by making letter-shaped biscuits that spell out family names.
- Make a pop-up or lift-the-flap book together. You can get craft books from the library

What should I know?

Praise is really important in encouraging a child to read. Some children need lots of practise and encouragement. If they are struggling, remind them of other things they are good at, or things they love but had to practise to get good at (eg riding a bike, swimming etc)

A word you will hear from school when children are learning to read is 'phonics'. This means the letter and letter combination sounds rather than the letter names. Look out for a parent workshop to explain our methods more fully.

If you have any questions please ask your child's teacher.

Supporting writing and spelling through reading.

Writing follows on from drawing and reading. When children realise that writing is a way of telling people something, like talking, they usually want to have a go themselves. Older children's writing improves the more they read, so the more you read, the better you get at reading, and the better you get at reading the better you get at writing!

Instant ideas :

- Play join the dots with very small children - dot out the shapes of letters or draw letters in pencil and encourage your child to go over them in pen.
- Leave messages for each other on the fridge using alphabet fridge magnets.
- Get your child to help write your shopping list or 'to do' lists.

Try making time to:

- Encourage your child to make a scrapbook when they are away on holiday - whether you go away or not. Encourage them to write and draw things that have happened to them.
- Encourage your children to make posters and tickets for plays that they want to perform to you.

What should I know?

If you are writing out words for copying or learning, make sure you use lower case letters and not CAPITALS, as children find it easier to practise the patterns of letters that way.

When children are learning to write, you don't need to worry about tidy writing. It is more important for children to practise making the letter shape and holding the pencil correctly.