



Summerfields Primary School

Becoming Independent

Help and advice
for parents



May 2017



Becoming Independent

At this stage many children want some independence and to read on their own. But they'll still want quiet times with you to share the books they love or to hear you read more challenging material.

- Keep reading together —every day if possible. Take turns to read to each other.
- Show you are really interested in finding out what happens in the story. Talk about beginnings and endings; the characters and how they behave; the bits you find sad, funny or exciting; the words and pictures you find interesting.
- Encourage interest in a wide range of material by drawing attention to snippets in newspapers or magazines. Help your child choose a range of books from the library.
- Tell each other about your favourite books and recognise that you may have quite different ideas about what you like to read. Respect each other's preferences and choices.

Helpful Hints...

Encourage a range of reading strategies eg sounding out, breaking longer words into smaller parts, reading ahead and coming back to a word.

Make sure your child sees your reading newspapers, books and magazines — show them it's cool to read!

Use the contents, index and glossary to locate information from a non-fiction text.

Ask your child what they like/dislike from the text and to explain why? Encourage reference to the text in explanation.

Comment on the author's use of language eg "the pond was shimmering in the moonlight".

Other Ideas...

- Make a poster to advertise the book that your child has just read.
- Create a cartoon strip showing your story.
- Write the blurb that you may find on the back of your book.
- Think of some questions to interview the main character.
- Think of some questions to interview the author of the book.

Questions you can ask:

- What could happen next?
- How would you carry on with the story if you were the author?
- What is the main problem in this book? How is it solved?
- How could this story have been better?
- What is the most interesting information in this book?
- What new word have you learnt today?
- Why did you choose this book?
- Have you read any other books from the same author?