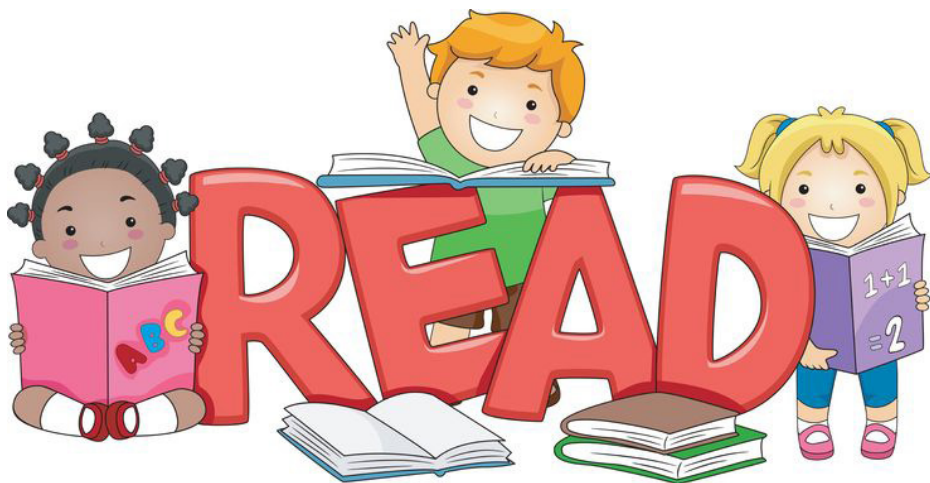


# Helping your Child



Information Evening  
with Charlotte Raby  
<https://charlotteraby.wordpress.com/>

## Language Development

- A large vocabulary is crucial to reading success
- Children need a vocabulary of 15,000- 20,000 words to read children's literature successfully
- New vocabulary needs to be taught
- Children need to hear and use new words multiple times to fully understand them
- Stories chosen at a level beyond the children's own reading level increases exposure to new and ambitious vocabulary. Talking about these words widens children's vocabularies

Source: Isabel Beck et al *Bringing Words to Life*

### What you can do at home

- Choose books at a higher level than those your child is currently reading to read aloud to your child
- Explain any unusual words that you find in these books so you help the children grow their vocabulary
- Talk about books. Research has proved talk about books has a richer vocabulary than normal conversation and it has a significant impact on children's vocabulary development

### Reading for pleasure research

- There is a clear link between reading frequency and reading enjoyment for children
- Children who enjoy reading benefit emotionally and socially. Reading can increase empathy.
- Children who read widely and often have better general knowledge.
- Children who read for pleasure make better progress in maths, vocabulary and spelling than those who rarely read. (1)
- The cumulative and combined effect of children's reading books often, going to the library and reading newspaper by age 16 is four times greater than the advantage gained from having a parent with a university degree. (1)
- Reading volume matters: children who read more often have better comprehension. (2)
- Children who learn to read quickly are more likely to read more over the years. (2)

1. Centre for Longitudinal Studies 2015: *Reading for pleasure: The cohort of 6,000 members were tested at ages 5, 10 and 16.*

2. Cunningham and Stanovich: *What Reading does for the mind.* 2001

### What you can do at home

- Make connections between the books you read aloud to the children and the books they are reading, so the children see themselves as readers.
- Return to well-loved books. Repeated reading helps children internalise these stories which help their comprehension and writing.

- Make sure you have a range of books, magazines and papers available for your children to read.
- Make books easy to access, have baskets of books in every room so your child can pick up a book and read!
- Ensure you have non-fiction as well as fiction, comic, graphic novels and magazines.
- Read children's literature so you can talk about the books and recommend them your child.

## Reading with Fluency

### What is fluency?

- Fluency combines accuracy, automaticity and reading with expression.
- A reading speed of 90 words per minute is needed for children to be able comprehend as they read.
- Reading fluency is a vehicle for reading comprehension.
- Reading aloud to children with expression helps them develop fluency.
- Repeated reading of the same text gives children time to gain fluency; giving them a better idea of what fluency feels like.

*Cotter, Jennifer, "Understanding the Relationship between Reading Fluency and Reading Comprehension: Fluency Strategies as a Focus for Instruction" (2012). Education Masters. Paper 224*

*Doug Lemov: Raising Kids Who Read 2015*

### What you can do at home

- Ensure that the books your child is reading independently are at the right level, with a bit of challenge but also easy enough that they are able to read them smoothly, without too many stops and starts to decode words.
- Let your child put down books that they are not enjoying. They can come back to them when they are ready.
- Read to your child with prosody: with expression and intonation. Children learn to read out loud with prosody by example. Do silly voices and emphasise certain words and then talk about why you made those choices so your child can understand the thinking behind your reading.
- Listen to your child read for a short while. Encourage them to use silly voices. Let them prepare the page or paragraph they are going to read to you, so they can think about what they are reading before they have to read it aloud.
- Read plays or comics together. Take on different characters and make the sound effects.
- Go back to well-loved picture books. Ask your child to read to a younger sibling or friend's child. Sharing the pleasure of a favourite book is a great motivator.

