

'Reading With Your Child'

A Support Package for Helping Parents to Read with their Children

What is 'Reading with your child'?

Research shows what our instinct tells us: children who read regularly at home with adults learn to read quicker than children whose only experience of reading is in school. Parents are often unsure, or not aware of, the best ways to support their children with reading and need sensitive support and encouragement to ensure they provide a happy and positive reading experience with their child.

This package is different to the usual workshops offered by schools as it is a series rather than a one-off. This provides a far greater opportunity for parents to feel supported by the school, to become more confident and expert in helping their children, to immediately practice their new found skills with their own children and have feedback, support and encouragement from the trainer. It also allows the content of the sessions to be differentiated for the needs of the adults where appropriate.

Who is the training for?

For groups of approximately 10/15 parents (targeted or open invitation) and an accompanying member of the SMT or Literacy Coordinator to apply the training to the school context. Parents sign up for the 'course' of 6 sessions.

What are the potential outcomes?

Reading at home just three times a week will help a child become a better reader. Good readers tend to enjoy school more and be confident and positive with other children and adults

For the child:

"It's cosy when we read, and we turn the TV off." Dilip

"I feel all warm when I read to my Mum." Amy

"Now I read with my Dad I am getting better at reading." Abby

For the parent:

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“Jenni and I now have our own special time when we share books each day. It’s brought us closer together.”

“I have always read with my child but since I had some training, I enjoy it more with better understanding.”

Parent and child will receive certificates for attending the 6 training sessions.

What are the aims of the training?

Parents will be able to support their child in a positive and productive way. They will know how to ‘share’ a book with their child, know things to say when they are stuck to help them become a better reader. They will be able to check that the level of book is appropriate and be able to show their child the good things they did and help them read in phrases so that it sounds like talking. They will know the importance of talking about a book and what words mean.

Content of training:

This will include a series of 6 practical workshops of an hour each, covering: What do good readers do, what to do when your child gets stuck, sounding out words, articulation of phonemes, reading in phrases, book choice and degree of difficulty, talking about books, frequently asked questions. The sessions will include observations of children reading on DVD and practical demonstrations. Opportunities will be provided for parents to ask questions in relation to their own children. Each session ends with the children coming to read with their parents so that newly applied skills can be practiced. It is recommended therefore that these workshops are held towards the end of the school day.

Trainers:

Accredited trainers who teach children within Reading Recovery and expert in teaching even the lowest attaining children to read.

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