

KS1 Recipe for a Successful Reader

Reading is a vital skill for young children's development. Listening to your child read daily is important for their success in life and school. Below is a recipe of ideas for creating a successful reader.

Listening

- Try and read with your child for 5 to 10 minutes every day.
- Encourage your child to sound out unfamiliar words (e.g. c-a-t).
- Encourage a steady pace.
- Praise all their efforts. Remember that success breeds success!
- Use the picture clues to help with unfamiliar words.
- If your child is unsure of a word, encourage them to read to the end of the sentence then the word may become clear.
- Encourage your child to check the text makes sense as they read.
- Good errors show a confident reader e.g. changing words or changing the order of words.
- If your child is finding it difficult to follow words; encourage them to use a book mark or their 'magic' finger to point at words as they read.



Talking

It is just as important that your child understands what they have read and are not just reading the words on the page. Below are some questions you can ask them when they are reading, to develop their understanding (comprehension).

- What made you choose this book?
- What do you think the book will be about? (Using the front cover)
- Why do you think the book is called...?
- How do you think the story will end?
- Which part of the book do you enjoy the most?
- Would you like... as a friend?
- What do you think is the funniest part of the book?
- What would happen if...?
- What would you do if...?
- What did you find out from the book? (key information)



Model enjoying the book just as much as your child is and talk about different kinds of books e.g. poetry, fiction (stories), non-fiction.

Supporting

- Practice keyword flashcards daily. Please do not expect that your child will remember every word quickly even if they knew it before.

KS2 Recipe for a Successful Reader

Children in KS2 need to enjoy reading and read for pleasure. It is still vitally important your child reads daily and has a wide reading diet. Below is a recipe for a successful reader.

Listening

- It is still important that you listen to your child read frequently.
- Allow time for your child to sound out any unknown words.
- Suggest they read to the end of the sentence and then an unknown word may become clear.
- If they are still unsure, share the word with your child.
- Encourage your child to use punctuation to improve their expression.

Talking

An understanding of what they have read (comprehension) is a very important skill in KS2. Below are some questions you could ask your child at different stages of their reading.

Before they read

- Why have you chosen this book?
- Have you heard of the author?
- Which other authors/stories does it remind you of?

About the characters

- Do you like them? Why? Why not?
- Why did they do that?
- Why did they say that?
- How did they feel?
- What might they do next?



About the setting

- Where and when did the story take place? How do you know?
- Describe the setting.

About the plot

- How do you know what kind of book this is?
- What has happened so far?
- What do you think might happen next?
- Why do you think that's going to happen?

Supporting

- Talk about characters and settings in films.
- Compare the differences between a film and a book.
- Encourage all types of reading (comics, graphic novels, magazines, newspapers, non-fiction books etc.).
- Share your reading for pleasure with your child such as reading football reports, instructions, recipes and websites.

