



St Peter's Nursery

READING WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Nursery Practice

Books play an important role in the Nursery to help your child's learning. We have many different kinds of books, e.g. story books, nursery rhymes, number books and information books, which help to support the work we do. We read stories and rhymes regularly to the children and we have books relevant to the topic that is being studied at the time. Children have access to books during the Nursery session.

During the three terms in Nursery before your child starts in a reception class, he/she will bring home two 'library' books once a week. The children choose these themselves and will enjoy sharing them with you.

How can reading at home help your child

Children are helped to develop their knowledge of language through stories and rhymes, and the earlier the exposure takes

place the better. Sharing a book with your child can help them develop a love of books and thereby increase their competence and confidence with regard to reading.

Reading permeates and supports much school based learning. Developing a self-confidence with books will be of tremendous benefit to your child, and you can assist this by supporting the act of reading at home.

In sharing books with young children, adults are able to establish an atmosphere in which print can be seen, shared and talked about; story structures can be demonstrated and feelings can be explored.

Books which contain repetition and rhyme, e.g. 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', 'Each Peach, Pear, Plum', encourage children to join in, which is the first step to reading by themselves. Picture books have an important part to play in encouraging further development. They tell stories in words and pictures, and nowadays it is easy to tap into a wealth of bright, colourful picture books which your child can 'read'.

Classic titles for reading together

Each Peach, Pear, Plum and other Janet and Alan Ahlberg books

Alfie and Annie Rose Stories and other Shirley Hughes books

Elmer - D. McKee

Five Minutes Peace and other Jill Murphy books

Dr. Seuss books

Nursery rhymes and traditional tales

The Very Hungry Caterpillar and other Eric Carle books

We're Going on a Bear Hunt and other Michael Rosen books

The Gruffalo and other Julia Donaldson books

The link below will take you to the Book Trust where you will find many wonderful books listed:

http://files.server.booktrust.org.uk/usr/resources/1120/bestbookguide_2014.pdf

And don't forget: your local library is a fantastic resource – free to join and free to use!

How to help

You can help by:-

- Singing. Rhymes help children see how letters make the same pattern in different words. Play 'odd one out' games. For example, which word is the odd one out in a list like cat, mat, dog, sat?

- Playing I-Spy with letter sounds. It is a great way of showing that every word begins with a letter.

- Pointing out the names of different kinds of food at the shops.

- Looking at the words on cereal packets, milk and fruit juice cartons at breakfast time. Hunt for letters that are also found in your child's name.

- Reading the words and look at the letters on your groceries as you put shopping away.

- Writing a title when your child draws a

picture (for example, dog, Mummy, house) to show them that words belong to things. Label objects around the home.

General Observations

When you share a book with your child try to ensure that you are close and that there are no distractions. Try to make it happen at a time when your child wants to share a book. He/she will not easily develop a positive attitude to reading if it becomes the reason for stopping favourite activities.

Encourage your child to make use of the public libraries, and to develop an understanding of their resources and how they work. If your child has a particular interest, e.g. dinosaurs, you should be able to find an appropriate story or non-fiction book which will help them to find books more enjoyable and relevant.

Some tips on sharing a book

For the 'early reader'

- Read short stories that children will listen to for sheer enjoyment.

- As you read run your finger below the words to help them appreciate that reading is from left to right and from the top to the bottom of the page.

- Let them join in and say words. This happens most easily with familiar stories that may be asked for again and again.

- Generally talk about the book, including the pictures, perhaps asking them what they think will happen next. This will all help to make your child find books more enjoyable.

Words are Everywhere!

*Words don't just belong in books.
Look around, you'll see them everywhere.
There are so many places where we find
words we can share with a child:-*

- on signs and posters*
- in shop windows and newspapers*
- on groceries and football shirts*
- in the titles of TV programmes, and on
video boxes*
- on bus, train or tube tickets*