

Withernsea Infant School

Reading –Advice for Parents

When a child starts to read, he/she needs to have good “book- reading skills” on which to build their reading skills.

These will include the following:

- Talking about the book
- Holding the book the right way up
- Turning the pages individually
- Starting at the front
- Retelling the story from memory and pictures
- Distinguishing between print and pictures
- Relating personal experience to the story

The child will then move on to early reading skills which include:

- Following the text with their finger-not necessarily accurately at first!
- Showing an awareness of the directionality of the print-knowing that reading starts on the left and goes to the right
- Recognising a word as a unit

The Oxford Reading Tree scheme is based on the idea of using books that will interest the children often involving experiences they can relate to. It is a “reading for meaning” scheme. This means it is based upon adults initially questioning the child to obtain the right response so that the child can “read” the text.

The first stage of O.R.T. is based on understanding the story from pictures. The books in this stage are without text which enables your child to tell the story in their own words. It is important at this stage for your child to handle the book, rather than you, the adult, to encourage all the pre-reading and book handling skills.

Once your child has developed some early book handling skills, they will move on to books with text. Again the emphasis is initially on you, the adult, asking directed questions to encourage the right response. If your

child is unsure, they can listen to the story read by you and then re-read it back.

Throughout the reading process your child needs to continually handle the books, be encouraged to point to the words even though initially they won't be reading.

Sometimes a child will choose a book to "read" which they know very well and will be "reciting" rather than reading. In the early stages this doesn't matter as long as the child is enjoying the "reading" experience.

If the adult enjoys the book with the child and employs different techniques it all helps to develop the reading skills. Some techniques which can be used include:

- a) Getting your child to predict
- b) Talking about what they like/dislike about the story
- c) Asking which is their favourite picture?

If as an adult you enjoy reading yourself, this is a great bonus as this enjoyment can be transmitted to your child. So even when your child wants the same book 100 times, enjoy it!

Once your child starts to become familiar with letters and sounds they begin to point more accurately to the text. They will start to sound out words, using their phonic knowledge, and they will slowly build up a sight vocabulary. Once this is established the whole process becomes a lot easier!

Hearing children read is hard work, but the end result is definitely worth it! If you can spare 10 minutes a day to enjoy reading with your child, please do.

Happy Reading!!!