

Children should be reading about fifteen minutes per evening. Regular reading at home will support all areas of learning at school.

How to help your child develop their reading skills in Year 4

- When your child is reading aloud, encourage them to use suitable expression for dialogue
- Point out different types of punctuation such as speech marks, commas, exclamation marks, ellipsis (...)
- At home use dictionaries or encyclopaedias and use the alphabet to find words/ topics
- In non-fiction texts use skimming and scanning to locate relevant information quickly
- Discuss how dialogue and description helps you to understand the meaning
- Point out words and phrases that catch your attention and imagination, talk about why
- Talk about the themes of the book and books with similar themes
- Read books by the same author and talk about how the books are similar/ different
- Talk about how the context of the story, e.g. historical setting or social/ cultural setting

Questions to ask your child when reading

Fiction

- Which words and phrases tell you more about the characters?
- Which words and phrases tell you about the setting?
- What impression do you get of the characters feelings?
- What is your favourite part of the story and why?
- What does the word ... imply about...?
- Why does the author choose these verbs...?
- Have you ever been in a similar situation to the character in the book?
- Where is the story set and how do you know?
- ***Non-fiction***
- How does the writer link the introduction link to the conclusion?
- Which part of the text tells you most about...?
- How does the first sentence inform the reader?
- Why is this part in bold/ italic?
- Why is the text organised in this way?