

Dear Parents and Carers,

This guide should help you to support your children with reading at home.

Children use a number of strategies when learning to read and learn in different ways.

Strategies can include:

Sight vocabulary – learning words by sight, this is particularly important if your child struggles with phonics, also for 'tricky' words that cannot be sounded out eg 'the', 'was' and 'are'.

Decoding – sounding out words and then blending them together to hear the full word eg 'cat' and 'sock'.

Contextual clues – reading the sentence to predict what the unfamiliar word could be, or looking at picture clues.

More guidance enclosed for early and pre readers.

We hope you find reading this information useful.

Chesnut Lodge School



Halton Libraries

Contact details:

Widnes Library

Victoria Road, Widnes, Cheshire. WA8 7QT

Telephone 0151 907 8383



Ditton Library

11 Queens Ave, Widnes, Cheshire. WA8 8HR

Telephone 0151 424 2459

Halton Lea Library

Halton Lea, Runcorn, Cheshire. WA7 2PF

Telephone 0151 511 7744

Runcorn Library

Granville Street, Runcorn

0151 511 7666

www.halton.gov.uk/libraries

Chesnut Lodge School Reading at home guide.





Tips for reading with pre readers:

- * Put lots of expression into your reading of the book you are sharing.
- * Make the most of any rhymes and rhythms, make it fun.
- * Please read and re-read the text. Your child will enjoy getting to know the words and any familiar rhymes and rhythms. Remember that we all enjoy hearing stories that we recognise.
- * If your child can follow the pages as you read, point out the characters, or interesting objects in the illustrations.
- * If appropriate and possible, link the text to something in your child's life.
- * You could add sensory interest, by using any textures, smells or tastes you can link to the story.

If you can use SIGNALONG, please do so with key words to support understanding.

A guide to reading with those able to decode.

To Begin

Make sure your child has a comfortable, quiet place to sit. Distractions such as TV can make it difficult for children to concentrate. Give the book to your child for a few minutes so they can look at it alone. This allows the child to investigate and explore the text and pictures independently, before you share the story. Read the title together and ask them to tell you what they think it will be about, before beginning. Remember talking about books is as important as reading them. Children need to have enthusiasm for books, so allow them to choose their own from the library as well as using books from school.

Details of local libraries overleaf.

Reading Aloud

It is important that children are given the opportunity to read aloud to an adult, as often as possible. This will improve their decoding and listening skills. Help your child to sound out and blend any unfamiliar words. If they are still unsure, read the word to them and explain what it means, then read the sentence again together. Remember to give lots of praise and tell them why they have done well, e.g. "I really enjoyed listening to that, because you made it sound so exciting!"

Comprehension

One of the most important parts of reading is comprehension. If a child decodes fluently but does not fully understand the story or text, then they struggle to enjoy or appreciate books. It is therefore essential that children should be encouraged to answer questions about what they are reading.

At school we try to ensure that children are answering questions and talking about their books. One of the more crucial parts of reading is being able to conclude and infer ideas. Open questioning such as; 'why do you think that happened?' or 'what makes you think that?' will help with this. Asking children to tell you why, or show you clues in the text/pictures can improve their inference skills dramatically.

Remember that children need to read a variety of texts such as stories, reports, information texts, poems, etc. They also love being read to by adults, particularly if you can do the voices! If you show your child that *you* enjoy reading, it will have a very positive impact on your child's education and life.

