Wallisdean Infant School

"Learning together, hand in hand"

Top Tips for reading with your child

A Parents' Guide

- Try to take time every day to read to/with your child.
- Join your local library.
- Pick soothing stories for bedtime reading to help settle your child.
- Use different voices and facial expressions for each character. Don't be shy – your child will love it!
- Keep books where your child can reach them and explore them. Encourage them to read all kinds of things eg comics, signs, even cereal packets.
- Retell stories you have read, even at the dinner table or as you drive the car. Encourage your child to tell you how the story ends.
- Don't forget to do some reading for your own enjoyment. It sets a great example, and lays the ground work for your children to become life-long readers.

Tips for reading

- **Before reading look at the pictures and talk with your child about what they think is going to happen or what the book is about.**
- **Encourage your child to point to each word.**
- **Encourage them to use their sounds to blend words that they don't know.**
- **Help them use the pictures to make a guess.**
- **Help them to use the keywords they already know when reading.**
- **Look for words within words eg un*forget*table.**
- **Break down a word into two parts eg cookbook - 'cook' 'book' or 'snow' 'ing'.**
- **Encourage them to use the rest of the sentence to solve the word they don't know. Does it make sense?**
- **Have they noticed and used the punctuation?**
- **Is there a pattern or rhyme?**
- **Can they read with expression eg doing different voices for different characters?**

Comprehension

Ask questions like:

- **Where is the title?**
- **What is the book about?**
- **What does this picture tell you?**
- **Stop whilst reading. What do you think will happen next or at the end?**
- **Who was your favourite character? Why?**
- **Did you like this book? Why?**
- **Why did that happen?**
- **Why did … do that?**
- **Relate to real life experiences eg have you ever? Do you remember when?**

Please remember to write a comment in your child's Reading Diary.