



Reading with Your Child

Key Stage 1

At Overstone we want our children to read:

- for enjoyment
- for pleasure
- fluently and with expression
- for understanding
- as thinkers
- as reviewers
- as writers

As a school we want them to share their reading with others and recommend books to each other.

When reading with your child:

- Use expression based upon the punctuation.
- Stop at full stops, pause at commas, read a question as a question. How does an exclamation mark change the way we say something? Talk about why the punctuation is there. What job is it doing?
- Why has the author/writer chosen to punctuate as they have?
- Full stops: Why has the author used a short sentence? It could be to build tension, for humour, to add pace. What is the author trying to get the reader to feel or think at this point?
- Speech marks: Who is speaking? What do we know about that character? What are they saying? How would they say it? Therefore, how could we read it?
- Question marks: How do we read a question? Who is asking the question? Therefore, how would they ask it? Does it need a reply?
- Ellipses... What impact do these have? Why are they there? What do they add to the writing?

Before reading:

- Look closely at the cover.
- The Title: What is the title? What do you predict the book will be about? What in the title makes you think of these ideas?
- What do we know from looking at the cover? What can we predict the book will be about? Look at the illustrations. What questions does the cover raise?
- Read the blurb and make predictions.

Reading and sharing a book:

- What has happened so far?
- Are you enjoying the book? What is it about the book that is enjoyable?
- What do you predict will happen next? Why?

Choose a small section (this could be a sentence) to analyse in detail. Focus upon this for understanding. For example, the following sections are taken from different books and have questions that you could ask your child.

The boy was delighted, but the penguin said nothing. Suddenly it looked sad again as the boy helped it out of the boat.

Lost and Found, Oliver Jeffers

Why was the boy delighted? Why was the penguin sad?

The footsteps led to the gruffalo cave. Where the Gruffalo's Child was a bit less brave. The Gruffalo's Child was a bit less bored...

The Gruffalo's Child, Julia Donaldson.

Why was the Gruffalo's child less brave? Why was she less bored?

One day in class, Duncan went to take out his crayons and found a stack of letters with his name on it.

The Day the Crayons Quit, Drew Daywalt

What does the word stack mean? Why did the writer choose to use this word?

Then he said,

"Thank you for my nice tea. I think I'd better go now."

The Tiger Who Came to Tea, Judith Kerr

Read what the tiger said. Do you think that he has good manners? Which words make you think this?

Reading with your child does not need to just be books. Encourage them to read books, comics, newspapers, web pages, recipes, magazines, manuals, signs etc. To read these, to use them and to talk about them.