

## Reading with children 6–7 years old

At this age, children will regularly bring books home from school and will often be expected to read independently and silently.

However, reading to and with older children is still important. Even as they grow in confidence as readers, it is important that you continue to share their reading experiences. This engagement helps children to understand the special language of stories and other forms of text and builds their vocabulary, as well as to formulate and voice their own thoughts and opinions.

**Allow quiet time** for children's silent reading, but remain engaged by asking for brief summaries afterwards. This will also help you to check that children are continuing to read accurately as well as imaginatively.

**Continue to read together**, as a fun and bonding part of your routine. Tackle longer books with stories children will love, but that they won't be able to read on their own yet.

**Encourage storytelling**, as well as straightforward reading. Ask children to consider their tone of voice and the ways characters may speak, as well as the words on the page.

**Discuss big ideas and small details**, talking about how events in the book relate to each other. Discuss how stories, descriptions, characters and facts are built up from individual points.

**Ask for opinions** about the books children have been given and have chosen. Talk about impressions of the books gained before, during and after reading.

**Vary the types of book being read**, encouraging children to step out of their comfort zones every now and again. If a child loves stories, try suggesting a non-fiction book or some poetry.

**Continue to re-read favourites, too**, as this assists with confidence and fosters that all-important love of reading. Help children to find books similar to their favourites, or ask them to share their choices with younger children.

**Model reading for a real purpose** to show how reading can help us to find something out, do something, make something or get somewhere. Use a recipe, read a film review, find something in a catalogue, follow instructions and use search engines or dictionaries to clarify understanding.

**Put new or difficult terms into context** so children can try to work them out in a meaningful way before checking them in a dictionary.

Remember, children may still benefit from support with phonics as well as understanding. The activities suggested above for building **word reading** and **comprehension** skills can be adapted and extended to fit with children's new reading material and developing abilities.