

Reading with children 7 years old and older

At this age, children will regularly be expected to read independently and silently. However, reading 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.

Approach conversations with children about their books as an equal, valuing their opinions, ideas and responses as important information. Ask them to back up their opinions by explaining, or showing you, what part(s) of their books helped them towards their ideas.

Allow quiet time for children's silent reading, but remain engaged by initiating conversations about the topics and issues raised afterwards. This will also help you to check that children are continuing to read accurately as well as imaginatively.

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.

Encourage storytelling, asking children to consider their tone of voice and the ways characters may speak, as well as the words on the page. Suggest that stories or poems are read to you and/or other children as a performance.

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. Ask for evidence drawn from the books themselves. You could also encourage children to share opinions with one another.

Build understanding of genres by asking children to compare different books on the same topic, or different treatments of the same subject matter (for example, contrasting a poem and a non-fiction text that both describe weather conditions).

Ask for information and encourage children to consider what kinds of texts they could use to find it. For example, ask them to find particular recipes, new films you could enjoy together, how and where to buy specific items or what things may have been like during a different time period.

Continue to read together as a fun and bonding part of your routine. Use this as an opportunity to start discussing some of your own favourite books, too.

Remember, the activities suggested above for building **comprehension** skills can be adapted and extended to fit with children's new reading material and developing abilities