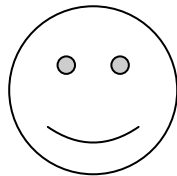


## Top Reading Tips and Hints

- ✓ Make sure you and your child are both happy and relaxed
- ✓ Make it an enjoyable shared activity
- ✓ Keep the reading sessions short **about 10-15 minutes a day**
- ✓ Choose a time that suits both you and your child
- ✓ Give lots of praise and encouragement
- ✓ Try to build up your child's confidence
- ✓ Help your child to use what they know and make good guesses
- ✓ Share all sorts of texts - comics, rhymes, information books and story books



September 2011

# Learning to read



at College Park Infant School



Want to know how to support  
your child learning to read?

Then read on!

## Book Conventions

Time is spent teaching children to:

- Hold the book the right way round
- Open pages left to right
- Recognise pictures, then print
- Know that letters are different from words
- Establish 1:1 correspondence by pointing to each word as it is read.
- Read left to right across a page
- Recognise basic punctuation ( . , " " ? !)

## Phonics

It is one of the first strategies all children are taught to help support reading. Phonics is the spoken sound that written letters make. Once the first few sounds are learnt, children are taught to use this knowledge to help read letters and then words.

Children are encouraged to separate the sounds in easy words and then push together to read e.g. c-a-t = cat, t-r-ee = tree.

Children are also taught to learn tricky words on sight as some cannot be broken into sounds easily e.g. the, one, said.

Most early school reading books allow children to master these skills with confidence.

## How can I help as a parent?

- Find time every day to share a book with your child (you reading to them, them to you or reading together)
- Let your child see you reading in everyday life.
- Share books in different ways (telling a story using pictures, talking about the story or characters)
- Draw your child's attention to print e.g. shopping lists, signs, bus stops, games.
- Play word or matching games to make reading fun!

## Why use books with no words?

Books with no words allow children to develop story language and be able to talk about what they see.

This is the first valuable step in learning to read as they begin to understand that pictures give us clues to help us read the story and this builds their confidence.

## What if my child is memorising the story?

This is an important step in learning to read as it builds their confidence and they begin to link spoken words with the print on the page.