

Why is it important for my child to read?

The ability to read is vital. It builds self-confidence and opens up future learning at school and in life.

Just ten minutes of reading a day can make a huge difference on your child's reading!

How will my child learn to read?

Learning to read does not happen all at once. It involves a series of stages that lead, overtime, to independent reading and to fluency. The best time for children to start learning to read is when they are very young. This is when they are best able to start developing basic reading skills.

At Balliol we teach the children to read using a phonic approach to begin with alongside learning to read some words on sight.

How can I help my child?

As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. Reading aloud to children is the best way to get them interested in reading. Spending time with word games, stories and books will also help your child.



Games and videos

Below are some links to games that children can play on a computer or tablet at home to support their letter and word recognition.

<https://www.ictgames.com/mobilePage/literacy.html>

Forest Phonics
Shark Sounds
Spooky Sounds
Phonics Pop
Little Bird Spelling
The Dinosaur's Egg High Frequency Words
Plus many more!

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/free-ebooks/>
Online reading books

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcqqtf>
BBC Bitesize Phonic videos

<https://app.discoveryeducation.co.uk/learn/signin>
A wide range of video lessons and games. Log in and click on the 9 squares at the top, then Espresso, then choose the age range for your child (Reception = Foundation, Year 1 = Key Stage 1), then choose one of the Channels to explore e.g. Espresso Phonics, Stories, Game Zone.



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Reading With Your Child



How to support your child at home



Pure Sounds

The teaching of pure sounds help children to read and write more easily.

Below are two useful links that allow you to hear how sounds are pronounced.

- ♦ <https://phonicbooks.wordpress.com/2011/03/13/how-to-say-the-sounds-of-letters-in-synthetic-phonics/>
- ♦ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCI2mu7URBc>

Sight Vocabulary

As you are aware, we are teaching and encouraging your child to 'sound out' words when reading. However, there are a few words when reading cannot be sounded out.

We tell the children that we have to just know these words.

You could make a set of these words that can be used in a variety of ways:

- Blu-tac the words in key spaces around the house and ask your child to read them aloud when they spot them
- Make sentences using the words and your child's name
- Look out for these words in books, magazines, or when you are reading a story to them

is	a	the	for	of	are
was	all	come	to	there	their
these	what	where	who	has	here

Tips for reading with your child at home

- Listen to them reading their school reading book as often as possible
- Share the title and discuss what the book might be about
- Encourage them to sound out unfamiliar words
- If they come across a sound that they are unsure of, tell them what the sound is and they can sound out the word. If it is a name or contextual word, tell them what it is
- Encourage your child to hold the book and avoid pointing at the words as they read
- Reinforce letter sounds by playing games like I spy
- Comment in their reading record to tell us 'how' your child has read
- Don't say the book is too easy or too hard (reading an easy book builds confidence!)
- Encourage your child to retell the story (to show their understanding)



Visit the 'Class Pages' on our school website (www.balliolschool.co.uk) for more information about how you can help at home.

Tips for sharing any book with your child

- Read to your child or read together for enjoyment
- Share a range of other texts including books
- **Set aside some time**

Find somewhere quiet without any distractions - turn off the TV/radio/computer.

- **Ask your child to choose a book**

Sharing books they have chosen shows you care what they think and that their opinion matters. This means they are more likely to engage with the book.

- **Sit close together**

Encourage your child to hold the book itself and/or turn the pages.

- **Point to the pictures**

If there are illustrations, relate them to something your child knows. Ask them to describe the characters or situation or what will happen next. Encourage them to tell you the story by looking at the pictures.

- **Encourage your child to talk about the book**

Talking about the characters and their dilemmas helps children understand relationships. Check the story is making sense to them and offer lots of praise

- **Let your child know reading is important to you**

Think of all the times in a day you use your reading skill!

- **Ask questions about the book**

What do you think will happen next? Which character would you like to be? Why?

