



Engaging parents in literacy initiatives in schools in the Afon Taf cluster



Supporting your child with their reading



***Tips and strategies for supporting your
child's reading at home***

Helping your child to read

Why should you help your child read?

Helping your child with reading at home helps them to make more progress at school. Children love parents that take an interest in what they are doing, and your help can make a BIG difference! If you can help them to practise the skills they have been taught in school they are more likely to remember them.

It is important to make the time that you read together enjoyable and successful, here are a few simple tips to follow when your child brings home a book to read to you:

- Look through the book and talk about the pictures.
- Read the first few pages to your child.
- Then let the child read on their own.
- If your child can't read a word, give them a few seconds to work it out. Working out how to solve tricky words is very good practice.
- If your child works out the word, praise their success.
- If your child can't work out the word, praise them for trying.
- Tell them the word and ask them to repeat it.
- When your child has finished reading, talk about the book together.

What else can children read?

You can help your child to read the books sent home from school, but there are other things you can read together as well, for example:

- Hobby magazines (football, fishing, animals etc)
- TV guides (e.g. film descriptions)
- Road signs
- Advertisements
- Instructions
- A recipe

Remember, reading isn't only in books and reading other things is just as important

Why do some children not enjoy reading?

When some children find reading difficult they may not enjoy reading to you. This can become stressful for both you and your child and it can prevent your child from wanting to read at home.

How can you help?

Here are some tips on how to make reading more enjoyable for you and your child:

- Choose a time to suit you both. Just before a favourite tv programme is never ideal!
- Try to read with your child regularly, but be realistic! Just a few times a week can be enough to make a difference.
- Decide with your child how long you are going to spend reading. Five minutes might be quite enough for both of you.
- Before reading a book, spend some time looking through it and talking together about the pictures.
- Share the reading with your child. You could start off, then take it in turns to read each page.
- Try not to be critical. No child makes mistakes of purpose.
- Always remember; PRAISE encourages your child to try their best.



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For more information about Catch-Up and for further tips on how to support your child's reading, please contact:

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