

Top Tips for Reading in Year 2

Your child is now building on their early reading skills and developing confidence in reading more broadly and fluently. These top tips will help you to keep a good balance between reading for enjoyment across a range of interests and developing the skills to help your child read with even more confidence and efficiency. We expect all children in Year 2 to read at home for 10 minutes every day. Please record in your child's planner the title of their book and any comments on their reading. When they have completed the book confidently, please write "ready to change" in their planner. We believe that reading is the gateway to learning and we appreciate your support.

Tip 1: It's still important to listen

Your child may be bringing home slightly longer books from school now, but they are still part of a structured programme and levelled in difficulty so we can match the best books to your child's skills. It should be a comfortable read – endless struggling is no fun and can put children off! Enjoy talking about it together while your child is reading.

Tip 2: Still phonics first

It's good to begin with a phonics first approach when your child gets stuck on a word but now you may also try different tactics too. For example, get them to say the first sound of the word, or break it into chunks or read the whole sentence again, focusing on the meaning.

Tip 3: Try chunking

Sometimes your child will still need to work out an unfamiliar word sound by sound, but increasingly it might be easier to look at the chunks or syllables in a word, for example *camp-ing* or *butt-er-fly*. Help them to do this.

Tip 4: Spot letter patterns in words

Ask your child to point out words that look like they should rhyme but don't: *home* and *come*; *do* and *no*. And words which do rhyme even though they look different: *come* and *sum*; *there*, *bear*, *hair*. This will help with their writing too.

Tip 5: Get your child to perform

When your child reads aloud encourage lots of expression and get them to use different voices for the different characters or to use different volume or pace. Reading to a younger sibling might demand this and is great practice!

Tip 6: Quiet time and silent reading

As well as reading books aloud together, encourage your child to sometimes read alone and sometimes silently. This isn't as easy as it sounds but it shows that your child is reading more effortlessly. Show how you read a book or newspaper silently.

There are lots of websites available where you can access e-books. The following website has been recommended by the City of York and is run by the company who publish many of the reading books we use in this school. The website is www.oxfordowl.co.uk. We are registered as a school and the website is free to use.

The Year 2 class log in is: **year2ld** and the password is: **year2ld**.

You can select books by genre, age and book bands. Your child's book band is the same as the **coloured** sticker on their school reading book. Remember your child should be able to read the chosen book confidently so don't struggle on with a book your child is finding tricky. They might like to select an easier book to read to a young brother, sister or friend. Try using the audio button to listen to stories too!

Please do let us know if you have any questions and also let us know any comments about how you and your child find using the website.