

to them, ask your child questions about the text. Even at the very earliest stages of reading children can interpret understanding from listening to the story and using the illustrations. They may be able to offer suggestions as to why things have happened or make predictions as to what could happen next. This is all part of the reading process.

Children can practise their reading in other ways as well reading books. Activities that require them to read and follow instructions such as model making or cooking are great ways to practise reading. There are many songs you can sing and games you can play that also help to encourage an interest in reading. These include:

- Children's Scrabble
- Boggle
- Nursery rhymes
- Lotto games
- Rhyming games
- I spy

Parents often worry that the teacher does not listen to their child read everyday, but please be reassured that your child is experiencing texts and being encouraged in their reading constantly. Teachers and other adults in school are able to teach and assess children's reading progress through the context of learning across the full curriculum.

Above all, be patient, be positive and provide plenty of praise and encouragement. Have fun and enjoy!

Helping Your Child with Reading at Home



**Supporting your child
by reading at home is crucial
to their success.**

This leaflet has been prepared to offer advice on how you can help support and encourage your child at home with their reading. At Dean Valley we believe it is important that home and school work together to make sure that developing reading skills becomes part of everyday life. Wherever we are in the outside world we are surrounded by text which provides many opportunities to promote reading in 'real life' contexts. We therefore, set up as many real life reading opportunities as we can at school so as soon as children start school they are introduced to a variety of reading material.

Every day children will experience reading in some form or another as part of the teaching and learning process. It is through this experience of reading and a specific focus on texts and reading in Communication, Language and Literacy, that children develop the skills and techniques to become independent readers. This will occur both in the outdoor as well as the indoor classroom and across all areas of learning.

By making reading material available at home you are encouraging your child to read. Try and bear in mind your own child's particular interests and match the material to these. Remember environmental print around the house, comics, magazines, leaflets, newspapers, sports news, TV listings, and children's sites on the Internet all offer opportunities to practise reading. It is important to match the content and degree of difficulty to your child's age to ensure they can understand the text and the vocabulary is appropriate.

Bed time stories are crucial for language development and to develop children's imaginations as well as for maintaining that special bond between parent and child.

Please do find time to read every night and enjoy this opportunity whilst you can.

Get to know your local library, they stock an excellent range of all types of reading material and the trained staff can guide you to the popular material of the moment. Giving children the opportunity to read a wide range of texts will hopefully foster a lifelong interest in books.

When your child starts school they will be given a reading book and reading diary and will be able to select a library book from the school's library. Please read the reading book together with your child. If your child would like to, suggest they read it back to you as many times as they would like, or to an older brother or sisters or another relative. You will know the most appropriate time for them to read; it may be straight away on their return from school, after bath time, just before bed or first thing in the morning. Whatever the time, make it a pleasurable occasion for all concerned - forcing them to read to you could actually be counter productive. After reading please write a comment in the reading diary, together with your initials and date.

In the early stages of reading, your child may appreciate you sharing the story with them, taking it in turns to read each page. As you listen to your child read, try to avoid interrupting them too often. Allow time for new or difficult words to be deciphered. If your child finds a particular word very difficult, quietly supply it and then return to it once the page is finished. This will prevent the enjoyment of the story being spoilt too much by disruption.

Reading comprehension plays an important part in the reading process. Whether your child has read to you, or you