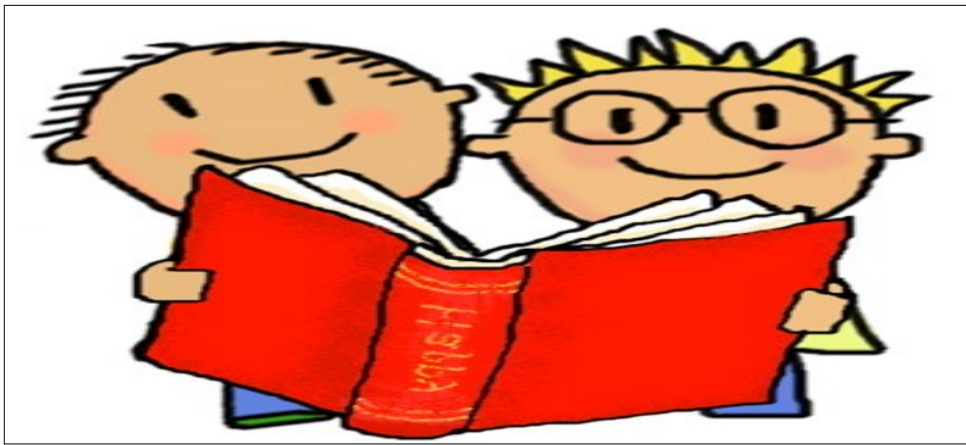


# Helping children to read



Parents' Handbook

Ysgol Bro Plenydd

**Ideas to help your child  
to read and enjoy books**

# Starting to Read is a Good Start!

- This booklet is full of ideas to help your child to read and enjoy books.
- For some children, learning to read will take place easily and quickly, for others more time and support will be needed. Whatever the case may be, your help will be a strong influence on your child's development as a reader. Praise, encouragement, assurance and pleasure are the important factors for every child as they develop into confident readers.



*"The more that you read, the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."*

**Dr Seuss**

# Encouraging your children to read

Show children that reading is part of  
everyday life!

Encourage your child by providing  
plenty of support and praise!

Read any time and any place!

Pictures are an essential part of a  
story!

Sit together where everyone is  
comfortable!

A variety of material can be read!

# Reading together

Children who read at home with their parents do better at school. Parents can therefore play a very important part in their children's development by encouraging them to read and by nurturing a love of books.

You can do this by reading with your child every day and making it an enjoyable experience.

If your child is young (between 2 - 4 years of age) you can encourage him/her to notice words and numbers, rather than teaching the child to read.

Talking and developing the child's language is the key to learning to read.



## The First Steps in Reading

Teach your child to:

- Recognise individual letters as sounds and graphic symbols.
- Recognise the sound of the first letter of a word, e.g. 'b' for 'bwced' ('b' for 'bucket').
- Build one-syllable words letter by letter, e.g. car c-a-r
- Recognise whole words, i.e. the 'sight' or 'key' ones that provide the form of a sentence, e.g. mae, yn, y, rydw, chwarae (the, is, am, play).
- Combine letter sounds to create words, e.g. 'ffr' in 'ffrind' ('fr' in 'friend') or in the middle of words such as 'aw' in 'mawr' ('ai' in 'paint').
- Read long or difficult words by breaking them down and reading them syllable by syllable, e.g. teg-an-au (an-i-mals).
- Follow the story and hold the book correctly.

# Helping 3 - 5-year-old children with their reading

- It isn't how many words your child understands that's important! It's enjoying the reading together that's important!
- Your child should hold a book correctly and enjoy the pictures.
- Hearing a number of stories and nursery rhymes is also a great help.
- Read together every day in order to encourage your child to read aloud.
- Look at the pictures and discuss whatever draws your child's attention. This will help the child understand the story and to guess new words.
- Move your finger under the words so that your child can see and hear the words at the same time.
- Do not draw too much attention if your child makes a mistake. Encourage your child to think what he/she could be saying. Draw attention to the sound at the beginning of a word.
- Playing games such as 'I spy with my little eye ...' and looking for words on labels or signs, in the street or in shops, also promotes reading.
- Go to the library to choose books together. You can borrow these for free.

# Helping 5 - 8-year-old children with their reading

- It is important that you continue to read together - every day if possible.
- By 5 - 8 years of age, children have a personal taste in books, therefore they need to be given the opportunity to choose which stories to read.
- You can discuss specific aspects of the story, such as the opening, the ending, and the language used.
- Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the story.
- Read aloud together so as to continue to nurture confidence.
- Ideally, complete silence is needed in order to promote concentration.
- Tell each other which types of books you prefer. It is important that you respect each other's choices.
- If time allows, you could make things together - hats, puppets, cakes - to accompany your story.

# Helping boys with their reading

Some boys have no interest in reading stories, nor in reading as a whole!

Put simply, some boys are reluctant to read!

It is possible that boys will enjoy reading magazines or factual books. Some boys also enjoy searching for information on a computer screen. This type of reading should not be underrated; the challenge is to build on it.

## Other options instead of story books

All types of reading materials can be used to encourage boys to take an interest in reading:

- Comics or magazines
- Instructions for computer games
- Television programme schedules
- Newspapers
- Catalogues
- The Internet.

If boys are interested in wildlife, for example, or in space or fashion, there are many interesting factual books available that contain good pictures.

If you see an interesting newspaper article, ask him to read it and request his opinion on it.

Humorous books are likely to attract boys. You could ask the librarian for advice on choosing suitable books.

# Reading is everywhere



*Road signs*



*Newspapers and Catalogues*



*Shop names*