



Early Years reading

How can you help your child with their reading?

READING LILAC BOOKS

Your child is just beginning to discover the excitement of books. Although these books have no words, they are an important introduction to reading. Please encourage your child to:

- **Look at the pages in order**, and talk about what is happening on the **left hand page through to the right hand page**
- **Talk about what is *happening*** on each page, rather than just talking about what they see in each picture. For example - "What is ____ doing here?" "What do you think ____ is saying here?"
- **Tell you who or what the book is about.** The next page has a list of suggested questions and ideas to encourage your child to talk about the book.

READING PINK BOOKS upwards

- Please listen to your child **read regularly**. 10-15 minutes a day is much better than longer sessions once a week.
- At Sacred Heart School, we use a phonics approach to teach children to read words. From the first stages of reading, pupils are taught the **use the sounds in words** to build up words phonetically. When your child is reading, encourage them to:
 - **point to each word** to help them keep track
 - **'sound out' words** using their 'Fred fingers' (over time, your child will be able to read *some* words without 'sounding out')
 - **use pictures clues** to help them read unknown words/follow the story
- **Take turns** in reading
- **Talk about the book.** The next page has a list of suggested questions and ideas to encourage your child to talk about the book.
- **Talk about the meanings of words** to help to develop your child's understanding and use of language.

Remember build up your child's confidence by **consistently praising their efforts**.

Using questions to talk about the book

Helping your child *to identify key points*

Why did _____?

What did _____ do?

Who did _____?

Where is the _____?

At the start of the story, (Sam was sad) - why?

Helping your child *to understand the words*

Can you find the word _____?

What does the word _____ mean?

Helping your child *to predict what might happen next* (based on what has been read so far)

What do you think is going to happen next?