

Commonly Asked Reading Questions



1. Why is my child's reading book so easy?

By the time your child is reading their book to you at home, they will have already read their book with the teacher and often to their reading buddy, so it should be easy and sound like talking.



Reading should sound smooth and fast like talking, not word by word. Sometimes children will bring home books at an easier level to practice reading fluently and with expression. These skills are easier to practice on simpler text.

2. Why doesn't my child bring home a new book every night?

A teacher may use a book over several days to teach reading strategies, build vocabulary and to develop critical thinking skills. If the child takes the book home and reads ahead, the opportunities for teaching can be reduced. On the nights they don't have a new book they will be bringing home a book/books from their browsing box or they can read their library book.



3. Why does my child bring home the same book from their browsing box?

Your child selects their own browsing book to share with you at home. They often choose the same book because they feel confident reading that book. As their confidence grows they will select other books to bring home. Your job as the parent is to be the cheerleader by offering praise and encouragement.

4. How long do children stay at each reading level?

In order for children to meet the National Standards expectation in reading after one year at school, they need to move levels about every three weeks.



Once children have progressed to level 15 the rate of progression through the levels slows down. Levels 15 and 16 are equivalent to six months worth of reading. This is the same for levels 17 & 18, 19 & 20 and 21 & 22.

After level 22 children read 'age appropriate' material. This means a 10 year old, meeting expected rates of progress, could read material at curriculum level 3.

5. My child doesn't want to read at home, what can I do to help him/her?

Sometimes changing the time of day you ask your child to read may solve this problem. If they are tired and hungry after school, try reading first thing in the morning or at bedtime. There are occasions when it's better just to read the book to them. We want

reading to be a positive and enjoyable experience for both you and your child.

If you notice your child struggling with their reading at home, try reading a page each. If this continues to be a pattern then please discuss it with the teacher.



6. My child is a great reader, do I need to listen to him/her read every night?

You don't always need to listen to your child read out loud. Try these ideas:

- Ask them to retell the story in their own words
- Ask what the problem was in the story, and how it was solved
- Let them share what they learnt in their non-fiction book
- Let them choose their favourite page to read to you
- Engage them in discussion to encourage a deeper understanding and critical thinking about the book



7. How long should my child read for at home each night?

All children should read at home each night.

- Yr 1-2 A reading book and/or 1 or 2 browsing books and/or poetry book for 10 minutes each night
- Yr 3-4 A reading book or library book for 15 minutes each night
- Yr 5-6 A library book for 15-30 minutes each night



8. Do I need to keep reading to my child when they can read to themselves?

We strongly encourage you to continue reading to your child even when they can read themselves. This allows children to enjoy books without the effort of having to work out (decode) what the words say themselves. Children can build their vocabulary and comprehension skills by listening to you read and talking together about what you have read.

