



A Guide to Reading in Reception at DCIS.

As your children get better and better at their reading and phonic knowledge, we change and adapt our reading in our Reception classes to offer more challenge for the children. To make sure you are clear about what is happening and how to support your child at home, we have made this quick guide to help.

When will my child be heard to read?

Your child will be heard to read individually by a member of the team at least once a week. They may be heard to read more often than that. They may also be ready to read in a group (guided reading). We will talk more about that in a moment.

Will they be heard on the same day every week?

The simple answer is no. This is for lots of reasons. If your child is ill and they miss their 'reading day' it can mean they wouldn't be heard to read. Therefore, each class will plan reading around the class's needs. This is also why the same person won't read with your child every time. To help us with this, it is **ESSENTIAL** that your child brings their reading record and reading book to school **EVERY DAY!** Even if you haven't read it at home yet.

But they have read their book. Can we change it?

Of course you can. Each classroom has a basket or box that the children can place their reading record and reading book in. Please make sure the book is inside the reading record so that we know who it belongs to. That way, your child can have several books a week to support their reading development. The more they read, the more confident they become as a reader. We ask that your child reads their book at home at least twice before we change it though.

Why do they have to read it twice?

We like them to have read it twice for all sorts of reasons. As adults we know that we often find ourselves having to read things more than once to take in what it is saying. The same is true for your child. Sometimes, the effort they make to decode the words and remember the tricky words means that they do

not understand what they have read. Sometimes this is referred to as "Barking at Print". Therefore, it is always a good idea to read the book more than once before swapping it. Ask your child questions about the text. Ask them to find words they find tricky throughout the book. Make it fun. This way they are more likely to want to read to you. Also, please don't feel you have to read a whole book a night. Sometimes, two or three pages is enough. Especially if your child is finding it a little tricky.

But they are using the pictures to help them. They can remember the words.

Brilliant. This is a really early part of reading and essential to help them to make progress. Please don't ask them to read it backwards or cover the pictures up as they read. This won't help them to understand what they are reading.

So, what is guided reading and how do I know if my child is doing it?

Guided reading is when the children read the same text in a small group. The text is chosen by the teacher for a reason. It might be a non-fiction text to help the children read different genres. Or perhaps the book is full of phonemes the children in that group find tricky. Whatever the reason, your child's class teacher will plan and assess a clear focus. It is often at a higher reading level than the one your child takes home to help teach new reading skills. Guided reading happens once a week at the moment. Not all children are taking part, especially if they are worried or finding reading challenging. If you are at all concerned please ask your child's class teacher. Your child will still be reading individually alongside this.

Sometimes I feel my child's home reading book is too easy or they bring home one they have already read. Why is this?

Home readers should be supporting the child's confidence with reading. They should be comfortable reading this book with you at home. We don't want reading to be a battle. They are carefully matched to your child's reading ability. In Reception, each colour band up to Yellow is split into small bands. You may have noticed the numbers on the books. The children are encouraged to choose a book they are interested in from this selection. We try to ensure that there is a range of genres in this band. However, just like adults, children will develop their favourite style of reading so they may bring home every Biff and Chip book, or every book from Phonics Bug, or just non-fiction books. That's

fine. We also share books in the reading corners and in Literacy base times to make sure they read a wide range. It is also the reason why, even though we discourage it where appropriate, they may choose to bring the same book home. Sometimes this can really help their confidence. But rest assured we won't allow them to bring home the same book every week....

My child didn't read this week. Why is this?

It is unusual for your child not to be read with at all. A comment should be written in your child's book every time they are heard to read individually. We don't write comments for guided reading in reading records but there are exceptions to this. If you are at all concerned, please do speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Do I need to write in their reading record? What do I write?

Yes please if you can. We understand that time at home can be rushed but any comment is much appreciated. For example, if your child has brought home a book that they really dislike or really like we would appreciate knowing this so that we can help them to choose books in the future. Comments could include statements such as "X read really well tonight. He found the word 'the' tricky." or "P read with so much confidence tonight." We don't mark your spellings or grammar! Please don't worry.

What can I do at home to help with reading?

Here are few easy steps that might help;

- Find a time that is right for your child. Some children like reading when they get home. Some children like reading in the morning. Try to avoid times when they are tired such as bedtime. This is the best time for you to snuggle up and read to them.
- If they are finding it hard, put it down, praise them and leave it for a day. We all know what it is like to be faced with something we are just not in the mood for and children are the same.
- Try reading a page each if they are getting tired.
- Try to read in a quiet space with as few distractions as you can. We know that is hard and very often it is the time when the phone rings, the door bells rings and the tea is ready but it is important to try to create times and spaces when your child is not distracted by the things around them.

- Don't cover the pictures. At this stage of learning they are essential to support your child.
- Ask questions about the book as you read with your child. We have added a bookmark with some key questions you might like to ask to help you.
- A good book at bedtime will really help to develop reading for pleasure. Try to read with your child and in front of your child to take away the 'mystery' of reading.
- Try to read your child's school reading book at least every other day. As we have already said, it doesn't have to be a whole book. But regular practice is important.

What should I do if I have any worries about my child's reading?

In the first instance, share your worries and concerns with your child's teacher. We want reading to be a pleasurable experience for you and your child. We will always help where we can with games, ideas and suggestions for you both.

If you have concerns about the teaching of reading, and have already spoken with your child's class teacher, then do please ask to speak with Mrs Edwards the EYFS lead.

We hope that this booklet has been of some help to you all and clarified some of the expectations of reading in Reception at DCIS.

Remember, reading is fun.

The Reception Team