



Dear Busy Bees Parents and Carers,

Your child will begin to bring home reading books from Stage 1 of our reading scheme.

These 'Early Books' are wordless or have very few words but are very important to your child's reading development. Early Books allow children to learn how stories work, including the order and direction in which they read, without the pressure of too many words on the page. Children will enjoy talking about the story and discussing what is happening in the pictures.

The first step in reading is to use visual prompts to help read the words. The pictures provide lots of opportunities for playing with environmental sounds, an important first step in the teaching of phonics.

Activities and ideas when sharing these books with your child:

- Respond to your child's ideas by repeating them back and introducing new words to increase their vocabulary.
- Look at the front cover and read the title to your child. Ask them what they think the story will be about? Relate the title back to your child i.e. 'The lost gloves' have they ever lost anything? or 'Puddles' what do you do when you see a puddle?
- Allow your child to turn the pages of the book and describe what they see in the pictures. You could take it in turns to tell a page of the story.
- Encourage your child to add sounds to accompany the action in the story and talk about any sounds that might be found in the story setting i.e. 'Feed the Birds' what sounds might you hear outside?
- Once you have finished sharing the book ask your child to retell the story in their own words.
- Did they enjoy the story? Why?
- Record any comments in your child's reading record book, every time you read together.
- Look at letters in words which may be in your child's name.
- Ask your child to point to different things on the page e.g. The angry man.

Children's reading books will be changed regularly and should be sent to school every day.

Please can you read with your child every day. It is important that you spend some time, little and often, looking and sharing stories together rather than long periods of time looking at all the books at once.

It is also important that children read the same books more than once, so they become more and more familiar with the words, and therefore put them in their long-term memory. So, please do not worry if you find your child comes home with the same book on more than one occasion. This is an important strategy in the reading process for children at infant school level.

Thank you

Mrs Vaquinhas