

Reading at home

Getting ready for SATs

Countdown to success

Reading at home; ways to help prepare using non-fiction texts



Supporting your Child with Reading...

Non-Fiction

This leaflet is designed to support you with helping your child to improve their reading skills. Now that they know how to read, the next step is to make sure that they understand what they have read and can answer questions on pieces of information.



You can help your child by:

- Reading anything! The SATs paper for reading may ask children to answer questions about a story, leaflet, flyer, advert, brochure or any kind of text! The more varied reading your child does, the less likely they are to be fazed by a text.
- Build on their interests or what you have lying around. Magazines, junk mail through your door, programmes from a football match, menus or bus timetables– all have text that you can ask questions about. First News publish newspapers aimed at children and newspapers lying around the house are a great resource to provoke discussion.
- Building reading accuracy. As your child is reading aloud, point out words they missed and help them read words correctly. If you stop to focus on a word, have them re-read the whole sentence to be sure they understand the meaning.
- Building reading comprehension. Talk with your child about what they are reading. Ask about new words. Ask what new information they have learned from the text. Encourage them to read on their own.
- Read together every day. Spend time talking about pictures and diagrams.
- Visit the library often. And use the internet... Any reading is a bonus!



Listed below are some general questions that you can ask your child about non-fiction texts. Some will be more relevant than others but all will help to develop their understanding of things they have read.

- What day did this happen?
- How many people were involved?
- How much does it cost to buy...?
- What happened in this news story? When did it happen?
- Can you recap the key events?
- Can you summarise the most important pieces of information?
- How do you feel about...? Can you explain why?
- What did the author intend by...?
- What do these words mean and why did the author choose them?
- What is your opinion about...?
- What evidence do you have to back up your opinion?



Continued over...

- Using the evidence available, how do you feel about...?
- How do you know that?
- How do the views put forward in this text affect your views on...?
- Can you think of anywhere we might be able to find additional information about this?
- What do the pictures or diagrams in this piece of information add to the text? How are these different from the pictures you might find in a story?
- Why has the author organised the information in this way?
- Can you point out a heading? sub-heading? caption? diagram? introduction? etc.



Remember:

- Listening to your child read is important but asking questions to show understanding of what they have read is even more important.
- Try to build up to 15 minutes focused reading (that's how long children get to read information for in SATs).
- Ask your child to find evidence in the text that they have read to prove their answer.

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