

## Helping children develop a love of reading

### SLS talk to Year 3 parents 9.9.24

However independent a child is at reading, it is still so important to read together.

Here are 4 top tips for developing your child's love of reading:

#### **1. Choose a time to suit your family**

- Evening – bath, book, bed
- Before school
- Waiting for another child at a club
- 10 minutes a day is proven to be more effective than one long session per week

#### **2. Allow them to choose**

- It doesn't have to be a story – could be magazines, graphic novels, comics, picture books (many are great for older readers)
- Don't be worried if they want to read the same book/series/author over and over again – this is part of their learning – just be ready with some other books for when they are ready to move on
- Avoid criticising their choices e.g. "that's too easy/hard" – they can still enjoy books that are simpler than what they are able to read and books that are too difficult can be read together
- Audio books are helpful if you/your child is tired or if you feel less confident reading aloud – children still pick up on plots, language, sentence structure → you can borrow audio books for free on Borrow Box if you are a member of Hampshire libraries  
<https://hampshire.borrowbox.com/> or on World of Stories  
<https://www.worldbookday.com/world-of-stories/>
- See the reading recommendations on <https://www.worldbookday.com/reading-recommendations/>

#### **3. Try not to rush**

- Put distractions away and give your full attention (e.g. TV off, phones away)
- Find a favourite place to read together
- If they are reluctant to read with you, start reading, make it fun and they may come and join you later/the next day/after several days – if they don't look like they are listening, they probably are still taking it in!
- Give time to talk about what you have read and check understanding

#### **4. Be a role model**

- Talk about what you are reading or have read during the day – whether it's a book, a news app, a recipe, a shopping list!
- Involve your child in reading during day-to-day tasks e.g. reading the shopping list

Research shows that children who read tend to have better mental health and greater empathy.