

## **The Importance of Early Reading for Parents**

Reading is a fundamental skill that lays the foundation for your child's future learning and development. In the EYFS, we focus on nurturing a love for reading from an early age. Here are some key reasons why early reading is so important:

Reading helps children develop their vocabulary, language skills, and comprehension. It introduces them to new words and concepts, enhancing their ability to communicate effectively.

- Limited language skills during childhood can have lifelong consequences in areas such as behaviour, learning, well-being, and future employment.
- A limited vocabulary during early childhood is linked to significant risks for negative social and academic outcomes.

### **Why else?**

Engaging with books stimulates your child's brain, improving their concentration, memory, and critical thinking skills. It also encourages imagination and creativity.

Reading together creates a special bond between you and your child. It provides an opportunity for quality time, fostering a sense of security and love.

Early reading sets the stage for academic achievement. Children who are exposed to books early on tend to perform better in school and develop a lifelong love for learning.

Stories often contain valuable lessons about empathy, kindness, and understanding others. Reading helps children develop social skills and navigate their emotions.

## How You Can Support Reading at Home

We encourage you to make reading a part of your daily routine. You can do this by:

1. **Creating a Reading Routine:** Set aside a specific time each day for reading. This could be before bedtime, after school, or any other time that works for your family.
2. **Reading Aloud Together:** Reading aloud to your child is one of the most effective ways to develop their reading skills. Choose a variety of books that interest your child and read them together.
3. **Visiting the Library:** Make regular trips to the library to explore new books. Let your child choose books that capture their interest and curiosity.
4. **Discussing the Stories:** After reading a book, talk about the story with your child. Ask questions about the characters, plot, and their favourite parts. This helps improve comprehension and critical thinking.
5. **Be a Reading Role Model:** Show your child that reading is enjoyable by reading books, magazines, or newspapers yourself. Children often imitate the behaviour of adults, so let them see you enjoying reading.
6. **Create a Reading-Friendly Environment:** Ensure that your home has a cozy and quiet space dedicated to reading. Keep a variety of books accessible to your child.