

Helping the Reluctant Reader

NOTES FROM WORKSHOP 4 October 2011: Mrs Burgess & Miss Hine



All children are different. Reading, like all aspects of your child's development, is personal to them. Never feel guilty about your child refusing to read. Within the same family, one sibling may be keen to, while the other isn't. Instead of worrying about why this may be the case, there are ways to encourage them without putting them off further...

MODELLING POSITIVE READING BEHAVIOURS

- ✓ Lead by example. Children love to mimic the actions of adults, so it is good for them to see reading as something that grown-ups do as well as children.
- ✓ Keep books and other reading materials around your home to allow them to become a natural part of home life.
- ✓ Remember that there are lots of things to read all around the house, and outside. Older children often enjoy reading magazines and papers. Younger children can find lots of examples of words around the house, from helping you read a recipe book to the writing on the side of a favourite cereal box.
- ✓ Visit the library together. It's free! There are staff around to give you advice, and you can pick up a book for yourself too! Most libraries also have reference sections, as well as DVDs, tapes, CD's and magazines.

READING STRATEGIES

- ✓ Paired Reading: picking up the pace by echoing the child's reading (so that you are almost reading in unison but you are slightly behind to allow child to read what they do can).
- ✓ Tapping method: turn-taking when sharing a book, with your child choosing when they feel ready to jump in, or when they want you to read aloud instead.
- ✓ Sounding out / Phonics: works for shorter words that are spelled regularly. Give your child the 'red'/irregular words and don't rely on this method to read whole passages as it is very time-consuming.
- ✓ Discussion involving key words, using the pictures: using the vocabulary that the reader will come across, talk with them about what is happening before tackling the text.

Most importantly:

STAY POSITIVE

When we are learning anything new, we are bound to make mistakes so help your child by letting them know that it's alright to make mistakes - and don't keep correcting every one, or they will feel like giving up. Concentrate on the pleasures of reading a book, rather than the pitfalls of it.

Pick a good time for you and your child: if you don't feel like sharing a book, they won't either, so be mindful and don't worry about the occasions it doesn't work.