

LEARNING TO READ AT BALLACOTTIER

Children begin learning to read by recognising letter sounds and then through the Letters and Sounds Programme they learn to read words by segmenting and blending letters. Children learn to read the most frequently used words in the English language alongside more tricky words with different phonetic rules.

As children's reading skills develop so does their desire to be challenged. They are able to tackle more complex words and texts. Fluency, expression, vocabulary and context become the learning focus at this stage.

Once a child is more fluent (a free reader) it is not necessary to hear them read out loud each day. Instead it would be more useful to engage in discussions about the texts that they have read and/or ask them to retrieve information and explain their understanding of events and actions within



Reading to your child
- at any age - will
boost your child's
brain development,
your bond, and so
much more. All it
takes is a few books,
motivation and a
little time.

"There are many little ways to
enlarge your child's world.
Love of books is the best of all."
(Jaqueline Kennedy)

Reading With Your Child



At Ballacottier School we aim to foster a positive and enthusiastic attitude towards reading.

If children are to become fluent, confident readers who choose to read, they need to be encouraged to develop the necessary attitudes, as well as the skills.

What we do in school is important. What you do at home matters even more.

Children who receive regular reading support and encouragement at home not only become more successful readers but develop more positive attitudes to reading.

It is with this in mind that we hope to work in partnership with parents to develop an approach to reading which is based on pleasure and enjoyment.

Remember to always praise and encourage your child.

- Act as a role model (allow your child to see you reading books, magazines, newspapers etc...)
- Establish regular times to read with your child - 10 minutes a day will make a real difference
- Sit in a comfortable place away from distractions
- Take time over reading together. It's not important to race to the end of the book

Why don't you join a library to extend your child's access to books and encourage a love of reading books. It is free to join Henry Bloom Noble Library and the Family Library.

Remember reading should be pleasurable and relaxed. If your child is unhappy, hungry or over-tired find another time to read.

Sit close together and encourage your child to hold the book and turn the pages

Before reading, talk about the title, the book cover, the pictures inside and discuss what the book might be about.

Take it in turns to read - you read a page and then your child reads a page.

Don't forget to use your voice to show emotion - children love this!

Encourage your child to run his or her finger along the words as you read.

Help with difficult words by building up the sounds. Use the picture or the rest of the sentence as a clue.

Book sharing

It is not essential that your child reads every word in the book. Sometimes it is more fun and useful to take turns reading a paragraph or a page. You can model fluency, use of punctuation and expression, such as using a different voice for each character. You can also use questions to support comprehension after each of you have read.

Compare Books to Film

Have your child read a book and then check out the movie version. Talk about the similarities and differences in the two mediums. What did he/she like/dislike. Which did they prefer the book or the film?

Compare Author's Books

Have your child read two books by the same author. It is a good idea for you to read them too, so you can discuss them.

