

# READING NEWSLETTER

Grimoldby Primary School



How can you promote reading for pleasure at home?



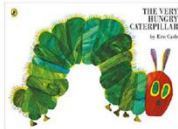
## Supporting Readers at Home



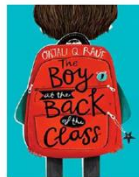
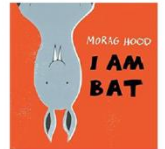
Open University research suggests there are three important ways to support readers and a love of reading.



Reading aloud to your children shows them reading is a pleasure, not a chore. Older children can read to younger ones too.



Making time to read alongside one another helps develop children's reading stamina and interest. Let them choose what to read and relax together.



Children who read, and are supported as readers, develop strong reading skills and do better at school.



Book Chats encourage readers. Invite them to make connections and share their views. Join in with your thoughts too!

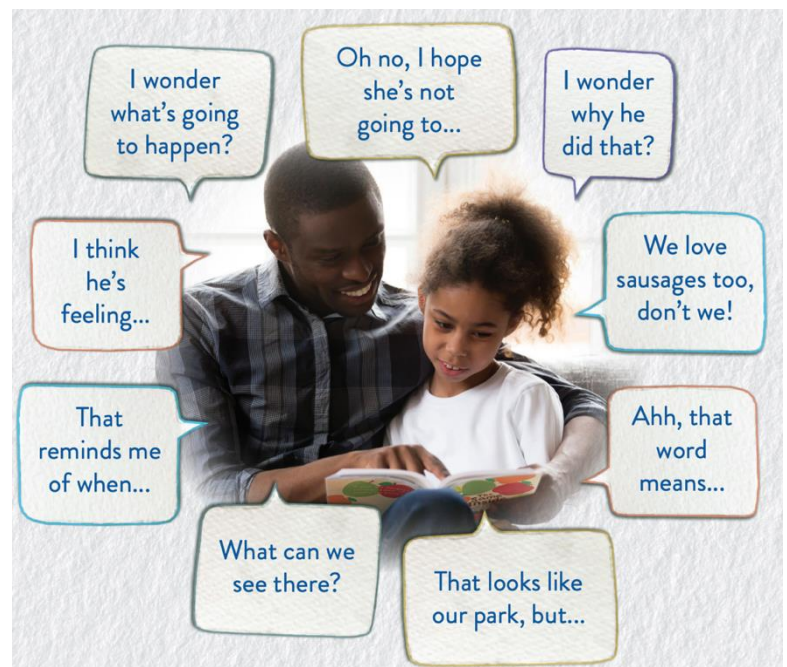


I wonder if...why... what...who...

For more ideas see the OU website: <https://www.researchrichpedagogies.org>

## What can we do?

- Reading environments
- Reading aloud to our children and reading with them
- Book talk
- Independent reading time





# A Guide to Book Chat

Research indicates that parents who regularly read with their children at home lay solid foundations for language and literacy development. It's a precious time for you both to relax, share your thoughts and feelings, have fun and chat together. Whilst sharing books, your child has your undivided attention, and the conversation, connection and enjoyment they experience is invaluable.

To promote children's pleasure in reading and foster the habit, we need to read **to** children and **with** them and to **talk** to them about books. These conversations are crucial as they help children to engage and think deeply.

## There are several ways to prompt book chat, these are our Top Tips.

Watch and listen carefully to follow their interests

**Observe and respond:** Pay attention to what captures your child's attention and build on their interests, for example, 'Oh, you've spotted the...!'.  
**Leave pauses:** So they can look closely and think, this will lead to comments on the pictures or questions. Respond to their lead and let the book chat flow.

Invite your child to get involved

**Pose questions:** Open questions encourage thinking and discussion, such as, 'How do you think the boy is feeling?'. Try to avoid closed questions, such as 'What colour is that?'; these have a single answer and don't keep the conversation going.  
**Draw attention to illustrations:** Encourage your child to notice details in the pictures and think what they might mean, for example, 'Look! What's that hiding, what do you think it might be?'.

Wonder and connect to your lives

**Ponder and wonder:** Encourage your child to think about what might happen, using phrases such as, 'I wonder if/ whether /who/ why/ what ...'.  
**Make personal connections:** Picture storybooks not only allow children to empathise with the experiences of fictional characters but enable them to make sense of events in their own lives. Talk about connections, for example, 'That reminds me of when...'.

Share your emotional responses!

**Comment on your feelings:** By sharing your emotional response to a character or something that's happened you encourage your child to do the same, helping them engage and learn to express their emotions.

Keep it light and enjoyable!

**Your combined pleasure counts:** Bring the story to life with facial expression, actions and sounds, encouraging your child to join in! Do offer information to help with unfamiliar words, such as 'That's the hencoop, it's where the hens live', but keep the focus on fun.

**Book chat develops language, comprehension and pleasure!**

(Open University)

## S-A-L-E: STRATEGIES TO INCREASE CHILDREN'S LOVE OF READING

Ruth Miskin

At Grimoldby, we use the acronym **SALE** to promote reading for pleasure. We can use this at home too!

**S** is for – Same – Persuade children that they all want to be reading the same thing.

**A** is for – Authority – Become an expert on children's books.

**L** is for – Live it – Breathe life into the book.

**E** is for – Ease – Make it easy to for children to find books.

### S is for Same

Although we would prefer to think our choices are original, in fact we often choose things that others also like. Advertisers play on this. They know that people like to follow the crowd. Knowing this is useful in persuading children to read. What books do your children's friends like to read?

### A is for Authority

We listen to those whom we believe to be experts in a particular field. Not only do we listen to their views on their specialism, but we are also likely to value their views and recommendations about other things. But this works not only in selling products. You might well choose to read a novel by a previously unknown author if it was recommended by another author whose work you already knew and enjoyed.

In terms of exercising 'authority' to get children reading, the best promoters are teachers and parents. If you say, 'I think you'll really enjoy this one,' the child is willing to trust your judgement and believe you. They care about what you think about books – and what you think about their likes and dislikes.

### L is for Live It

We need to create that desire in children. We can help readers make the imaginative leap to inhabit the new book, make children feel what it would be like to be 'inside' it. How can you make reading aloud exciting?

- Read part of the opening, at least to a point where they would want to carry on reading for themselves, so that by that time you have introduced the setting or a few key characters.
- Read intriguing extracts that might be key to the plot – without giving too much away – and ask children what they think might be going on at that point – and, indeed, what might happen next.
- Read some of the dialogue aloud to introduce characters.

### E is for Ease

When we are offered too many options as a potential buyer, we walk away. What can we do to make books easy to choose?

- Reducing the number of books presented to children.
- Putting the books at children's eye level. They should be able to see easily what is available.

This also means getting rid of books that are dull and dog-eared. Unless the child is a dedicated searcher, it can be like sifting through a jumble sale!

### How else can I promote reading at home?

- Join the library! If you join, you get sign up to the 'Libby App' and can listen to audiobooks for **free!**
- Audible is a fantastic app that has children's books and podcasts on too. You do pay a monthly subscription but it's worth it!
- Magazine subscriptions are another way to make reading exciting and current for children.
- Keeping current with shortlists and children's book awards *E.g. Waterstones, UKLA*

