

Keep Reading! Home Learning Pack – April 2020

Introduction for families

We recognise that for many parents and carers the task of providing appropriate educational experiences for your children can be daunting but we want to reassure you that the most valuable thing you can do for your child is to keep reading. Not only is this highly beneficial, whatever age they are but now more than ever, it will provide important quality family bonding time and help you to positively influence your children's future attitudes toward reading. Sharing books with your children is a great way to build their confidence and competence as readers. To help you, we have put together a range of suggestions for home learning that are designed to keep you and your children enjoying reading together. Some activities that are designed to be short and will require minimum input whereas others will need a little more support from an adult.

Top tips:

- There are lots of resources out there and it is easy to get swamped. Pick just a few and go with those, otherwise you can spend a lot of time just looking at websites.
- Some websites have great resources, but they can be complicated and are perhaps best for teachers. In this guide, we have selected some that are particularly good for parents and some that children can access without you, in case you need a 5-minute break!
- You could try to plan in one or two reading activities a day; routine is very important to children and this will help to structure your day. Daily online phonics sessions are available as well as daily storytelling sessions (see details below). Try to plan one activity just sharing and reading a book together or listening to a story from one of the websites listed and another could be a planned activity from the list in this guide.
- Let them choose what they would like to read, they will feel more interested in the story if they've picked it out themselves. Don't worry if they keep returning to the same story or the same author, repetition and familiarity is highly beneficial for young readers.
- Snuggle up and sit close together, encourage your child to hold the book themselves and turn the pages too if they like.
- Take a look at the pictures. You don't have to just read the words on the page. Maybe there is something funny in the pictures that you can giggle about together, or perhaps your child enjoys guessing what will happen next.

Read to your child

- Hearing stories, helps brain development, concentration, social skills, well-being, creativity, vocabulary and most importantly means bonding time with you.
- Children love an adult reading to them; we want them to be readers for life and this is the key to this.
- Read for **enjoyment** and **pleasure**; talk to them about your favourite stories and share a bedtime story whenever you can.
- Add sound effects when reading a story and encourage your child to join with different voices and say the rhyming words or end of sentences/repeated phrases.

Most importantly, have fun and enjoy the time you have together. We wish you every success and look forward to hearing from you as you try some of these activities.

If you would like any help, please do send a note to englishhub@roadeprimary.org and we will be very happy to support.

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Fun Reading Activities

The British Library - <https://www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/find>



Image credit: Sketches for *The Gruffalo*, 1999 © Axel Scheffler 1999. Photo by Joseph Turp

The British Library has just launched a brand new website – **Discovering Children's Books**. It is completely free to access and full of creative activities to do at home. Aimed at primary school children, teachers and book-lovers of all ages, the site explores the history and rich variety of children's literature, through treasures from the British Library. Go down the rabbit hole with **Lewis Carroll's** original manuscript of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Rifle through **Roald Dahl's** drafts, **John Agard's** poetry notebooks or sketches by **Judith Kerr**, **Axel Scheffler** and **Liz Pichon**. For the writers and artists of the future, there is a gallery of free activities to spark children's creativity and inspire their own stories, poems, illustrations and more.

- **Learn how to draw a Gruffalo**
<https://www.bl.uk/childrens-books/videos/axel-scheffler-how-to-draw-a-gruffalo>
- **Create your own characters**
<https://www.bl.uk/childrens-books/videos/viviane-schwarz-how-to-develop-a-character#>
- **Try Joseph Coelho's poetry prompts**
<https://www.bl.uk/childrens-books/activities/poetry-prompts>
- **Make a miniature book**
<https://www.bl.uk/childrens-books/activities/make-a-miniature-book>
- **Make your own comic strips**
<https://www.bl.uk/childrens-books/activities/make-your-own-comic-strip-stories>
- **Invent your own superhero**
<https://www.bl.uk/childrens-books/activities/what-makes-a-hero-super>
- **Favourite Facetime Read** – set a special time each day for a special person to Facetime you to read the children a story. This could be a favourite uncle or cousin, or a grandparent. They could read their favourite stories from when they were a child and talk about why they loved them.
- **Reading Rainbow** – this is a new take on the 'Reading River' with a rainbow theme. If your child has already created a rainbow and displayed it in the window, they could go one step further and add all the things they have read over the last week. This could include books, magazines, signs, posters or packaging.

- **Book Nook** – make a special place in your house or garden that you and your children can read together, let them be creative and design it just as they want it.
- **Treasure Hunt** – send your children on a treasure hunt, the treasure being a good book! Leave clues that lead them around the house to discover it in an unexpected place. If you are really into it, the clues could relate to the story. The magic of discovering a **book** at the end of the hunt will show your kids how valuable they can be.
- **Get Caught Reading** – challenge your children and other members of the family to find the most extreme and obscure place to read their favourite book. Take a snap and make a display. There could be a prize for the craziest place!
- **The Storytime Jar** – decorate a jar and label it for a bit of magic. Ask your children to write down the names of their three favourite books on a piece of paper and place it in the jar. Take turns to pick a story from the jar to read each day.
- **The Walking Read** – on your daily walk, challenge your children to find and read as many signs and labels as they can. Have they learnt any new words?
- **All Wrapped Up** – pick a new book they have not read or one they have not read for a while and wrap it up. Play pass the parcel with the family whilst you open the book and challenge them to guess what the book might be about each time they tear a layer of wrapping off.
- **The Chocolate Read** – a good Friday reading activity – use this time to snuggle up together with your favourite book and nibble on some chocolate!

Fun with Phonics

- **Ruth Miskin** is delivering a daily **Read, Write Inc.** (RWI) phonics sessions at <https://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/>
- **Twinkl** is delivering a daily phonics lesson, 9.30 to 10.30 a.m. Go on to the website and click on the Home Learning Hub. <https://www.twinkl.com/>
- **Phonics Play** - <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/> - a useful website featuring free resources for KS1.

Reading for Pleasure

- **Love My Books** - <http://www.lovemybooks.co.uk/the-tin-forest> - a free resource to help parents and young children enjoy sharing books together. Includes carefully chosen books, resources and activities.
- **The World of David Walliams** - <https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/> - daily story-time at 11am with David Walliams who reads aloud one of his stories each day.
- **Storyline** - <https://www.storylineonline.net/> - this site features accomplished actors and actresses reading some of their favourite children's books. Each story comes with a free activity guide and can be viewed on YouTube or SchoolTube.
- **Storynory** - <https://www.storynory.com/> - a collection of original, fairy-tale, and classic children's audio stories.
- **National Literacy Trust** - www.literacytrust.org.uk - this website contains a wealth of information and resources for use with pupils aimed at encouraging early communication skills and early reading skills. Free literacy resources - a selection of some brilliant literacy resources that you can access free of charge.
- **The Reading Realm** - <https://thereadingrealm.co.uk/> - hear a story and take part in some creative activities each day.
- **Children's books read online by Oliver Jeffers** - Facebook <https://m.facebook.com/oliverjeffersart/photos/a.391765256611/10156586435571612/?type=3>
- **Kids' Poems and Stories with Michael Rosen** - free stories, poems, songs, and jokes - YouTube. Subscribe and only click on the poet/authors name. <https://www.youtube.com/user/artificedesign/videos>
- **Solomon Kingsnorth** - <https://www.researchify.co.uk/audiobooks.html> - free books in PDF, Word and audiobook format - Alice in Wonderland / Wind in the Willows / The Railway Children / The Jungle Book / Peter Pan / Black Beauty
- **Worldbook** - <https://worldbook.kitaboo.com/reader/worldbook/index.html#!/> - 3000 Ebooks and audiobooks - free for children of all ages.
- **Authorfy** - <https://authorfy.com/> - provides free masterclasses from famous writers.
- **BBC Bitesize** - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary> - a well-used site with interactive games and activities for all subjects including primary English.
- **Books for Keeps** - <http://booksforkeeps.co.uk/> - on-line book magazine for children.
- **CLPE – Poetry Line** - <https://clpe.org.uk/poetryline> - has a free poetryline section, where children can discover 100s of poems.
- **The Kid Should See This** - <https://thekidshouldseethis.com> - wide range of educational videos that could be used as a stimulus for talk and writing.
- **Oxford Owl for Home** - <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/> - a wealth of activities for parents to do with their children.

Vocabulary and Language Development

Remember the importance of **talk**, your children will learn a huge amount from listening to you tell them jokes and funny stories and talk about the world around them so make the most of this precious time. Also, don't forget that playing **board games** is a great way to help your children to increase their vocabularies, and therefore improve their reading levels. There are many excellent games which will subtly enforce the skills without them even knowing it! A board game is set up for competition and children focus on the idea of winning and completing the challenges and do not even realize they are also improving their vocabulary at the same time. This is a great way for you as parents to help your children to acquire a bigger vocabulary. Here are some good games you could play. You could also make up your own or use a good old favourite like the Tray Game (a list of objects with less common names e.g. covered with a cloth. Give them 3 minutes to memorise as many as they can and then take one away and see if they can guess what it is.

- **Scrabble**
- **Boggle**
- **Upwords**
- **Taboo**
- **Scattergories**
- **Balderdash**
- **Catchphrase**
- **Pictionary**
- **The Tray Game**
- **Guess who**
- **Who am I (post it not on forehead)**
- **I went to the shop and bought.....**
- **Charades**

Other games

- **The Word Wizard** – challenge your children to find two new words every day and use them in a sentence. See if they can trick you by making up words too and test if you can spot them.
- **Call My Bluff** – pick three unusual words and definitions and put them in a hat. Now add a made-up word and definition and challenge your children to guess which ones are true or false. With older children, challenge them to make up the new word and definition.
- **Word poem** – pick your favourite word and make a poem out of it, e.g. spaghetti or avalanche. There is a great **website** to support this which is on the National Literacy Trust website with the poet Simon Mole - <https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/simon-mole-digital-poet-residence/>
- **Word Association Game** – think of a word and then take turns to think of other linked words, give a prize to the best word.
- **Mash-up words** – challenge your children to make up new compound words and give them meanings, be as silly as you like e.g. Hobbgobbler – a cross between a hobbit and a goblin.
- **Word searches/Hangman**

Useful Websites

- **The Game Gal** - <https://www.thegamegal.com/> - word lists and suggestions of word games to play as a family.
- **Discovery Education** - <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/> - free tool to make your own word puzzles.
- **Word Games** - <https://www.games.co.uk/games/word> - a range of fun word games, daily word searches, crosswords and puzzle games.
- **Wordle** - <http://www.wordle.net/> - a toy for generating “word clouds” from text that you provide.
- **Knoword** - <https://playknoword.com/> - a fast-paced word game that challenges your vocabulary, tests your typing skills, and stimulates your mind.
- **Brain Games** - <https://www.brain-games.co.uk/Word+Games> - play games like crosswords, hangman, word search and vocabulary games.
- **Twinkl** - <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/ks2-english/ks2-words-and-vocabulary/ks2-words-and-vocabulary-activities-and-games> - fun activities to increase your child’s vocabulary and to learn about word origins
- **Puzz Grid** – <https://puzzgrid.com> - this is based on the game Only Connect, where people have to make connections between words - many of the words could potentially go in different groups, which makes it harder.



(CHILDREN FALL IN LOVE
WITH BOOKS BECAUSE
OF THE MEMORIES CREATED
WHEN THEY SNUGGLE UP
AND READ WITH
SOMEONE THEY LOVE.
-RAISING READERS