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Home Reading at Quakers Hill Public School

Home reading is a fantastic way of developing a student's love of reading. It should be an enjoyable activity where students practice fluency, build confidence, learn about the world around them and develop their imagination.

Twice a week a home reader will be sent home that is close to the independent reading level for your child. The independent reading level is one where your child will be successful at not only reading the text but also comprehending what they have been reading about. It is a good idea for this text to be read more than once to assist them in developing fluency.

On other days of the week children are encouraged to select one of the following ways to read:

- reread home reader
- library book
- book from home
- food packaging
- catalogues
- signs and posters



Children are encouraged to develop a love for and appreciation of reading. This comes from reading texts they enjoy.

Assisting your child to become a successful reader

Do not look at the level of the book

A home reader's level does not matter. Reading at home should be easy, enjoyable and fun for those involved. As a parent, do not show your child your interest in the number of the level but focus on the development of your child's fluency and confidence in reading.

The book should be easy

Reading at home is an opportunity for your child to develop their fluent reading voice and confidence. It needs to be an enjoyable experience and is not a time for introducing new skills. Harder texts are given in the classroom under the guidance of a teacher.

It is the teacher's job to teach your child to read. Your job as a parent is to listen, support and encourage.

Read the book many times

Do not be concerned that your child has the same home reader for a week. It is important that children reread texts to develop a natural rhythm, fluency and clear reading voice.





Do not compare children, teachers and classrooms

Every child learns differently and at varied rates. This applies heavily to reading. Do not compare your child to others. As every child learns differently, there is a need for a range of teaching styles and strategies in every classroom. No two teachers or classrooms are going to be exactly the same. Each teacher creates programs to cater for the needs of each individual in their classroom.

Comprehension

Understanding what you have read is the most important part of reading. A child may be able to read fluently, work out unknown words easily and pronounce all words correctly, yet they are unable to answer questions about what they have read. After your child has read their text, ask them questions to clarify whether they have understood what they have been reading. For example, ask what the text was about, how they think characters may have felt, etc.



Sometimes children forget after holidays

It is common for children to 'go back' a few levels in reading after the holidays. Do not worry; give your child the opportunity to settle back into school routines, however it is important to encourage your child to read throughout the holidays.

Staying on one level for a period of time

Most children have times where they move up levels quickly and other times when they plateau for a while. As long as they are making progress and enjoying reading there is nothing to worry about.

Assessing reading levels

Reading assessment is a constant process in every classroom. Teachers conduct 'running records' regularly to assess the appropriate levelled text for your child. The teacher determines whether the text is too easy, just right or too hard. Please remember, it is the teacher's job to teach and assess your child's reading. It is your job to listen, support and encourage them to ensure they enjoy reading.



Comprehension Questions to ask at home

Questions to ask before you read

- Can you look at the pictures and predict what will happen in this book?
- What makes you think that?
- What characters do you think might be in the story?
- Do you think there will be a problem in this story? Why or why not?
- Does the topic/story relate to you or your family? How?
- What does the cover tell you about the book?
- What are you curious to find out about this book?
- What do you want to learn?

Questions to ask while you read

- What do you think will happen next?
- What is the problem in the book?
- Why do you think the character did that?
- When you were reading this part, what were you picturing in your head?
- What can you tell me about the story so far?
- Can you predict how the story will end?
- Why do you think the character did _____ ?
- What would you have done if you were the character?
- How would you have felt if you were the character?
- As you read, what are you wondering about?
- Can you put what you've read into your own words?

Questions to ask after you've read

- Can you remember the title?
- In your opinion, was it a good title for the book? Why or why not?
- Were your predictions about the story correct?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- What is the most important point the author is trying to make in his writing?
- What was the moral (or lesson) in the story?
- What was your favourite part in the story?
- If you could change one thing in the story, what would it be?
- Can you retell the story in order?
- If you were _____, how would you have felt?
- Is there a character in the story you are like? How are you alike?
- Did you like the book? Why or why not?