



Silchester Top Tips for parents supporting reading for children with Dyslexia

MY SUPER DOWER
DYSLEXIA!



Choose the right books

Make sure the book they are reading matches your child's reading level. As a guide, children should be able to read 9 out of 10 words they are reading to be able to read and understand the text.



Make sure that they choose books that have pictures which will capture their interest and help them to understand the text.

Read to your child

Reading to your child helps them to have a love of stories. It also helps to improve their

listening skills, broadens their interest in books and improves their vocabulary.

Read together

Share books with your child and encourage them:

- join in by discussing the book's content and pictures with them,
- describe what is happening or make predictions about what might happen
- follow the words together with your fingers as you read,
- join in by reading some words and ask your child to retell the story in his or her own words.

Supported reading

Supported reading encourages a child to read to an adult. Encourage this by looking at the books and pictures together, ask your child to suggest what the story is about, select two or three words or main characters to talk about, allow a child time to work out words (it is recommended that you give the word after five seconds), help with accuracy. Encourage your child to check their guesswork by cross checking letters in a word.

Over learning

Over learning - although this may seem tedious to you it is actually good to read a child's favourite book over and over again. This helps to build familiarity and if a child has a poor short-term memory it reinforces his understanding of the story.

Encourage them to read alone

Children need the opportunity to read and enjoy books alone. Young children need time to browse and more skilful readers need



independence and time to develop fluency. Encourage discussion about books the child has read, not only what the story was about, but also whether it was a good read and why.

Make reading FUN

Reading needs to be fun to do especially when it is hard! If you seem like you enjoy reading your child will pick up on this. Make sure both you and your child are comfortable and relaxed, make reading part of your child's daily routine, use different voices for the characters and use role play - you be one character and encourage your child to be another

Colour

Use a colour overlay - this sometimes helps or read books with a coloured or cream background. Contact school to ask about coloured overlays.

Make holidays fun reading opportunities.

Car journeys and holidays are a great way to teach literacy skills, especially when stuck in traffic. Encourage your child to read and recognize road signs, shop signs and words on advertisements. This can help reinforce the message that reading is an essential skill for life and not just a classroom event.



to remember how to spell it. Green is supposed to be the best colour to use but whatever works best for your child. Try coloured paper instead of white where possible as some dyslexics find it easier on the eye. Black print on white paper may cause visual distortion.

Handwriting

Use a cursive (joined up) style of writing - Motor memory is our most powerful way of enhancing memory and when the hand learns a pattern of movement it will help your child remember how to spell the word and improve their handwriting at the same time.

Writing toolkits should include a set of highlighters, spare pencils, pencil sharpener, soft rubber, blank word cards to act as memory jogger for difficult words.

Have a go pages

Use a try page - children should use a scrap of paper or whiteboard to try and spell the words first before writing in neat. This will encourage them to 'have a go' without the fear of getting it wrong or making their work messy.

Editing

Phonological skills

Always sound out words. When trying to read and spell a new word, tap on the table to count the number of syllables, then break each syllable down to sound out the word where possible e.g. hel/i/cop/ter. Your child will be so proud when they can spell a longer word and will want to keep on trying with other words.

If they can, encourage your child to highlight the difficult part of a word to help them try

Read what they have written - children should always read aloud what they have written to make sure it makes sense and they have not missed any words out. Let them edit their own work with a coloured pen where possible so they learn to recognise their mistakes and correct them.

Break tasks down into small manageable steps - little and often is best!

Recognise their strengths

Boost their self esteem - recognise their strengths, teach them to think so they can learn to be independent, help them to recognise dyslexia is not their fault and that they can achieve success and you can help them.

Helpful sources of information:

'How to identify and support children with Dyslexia' by Chris Neanon.

www.dyslexiaA2Z.com

www.dyslexiacentre.co.uk

www.dyslexiahelp.co.uk

www.dyslexic.com

www.dyslexic.org.uk

[Six myths about living with dyslexia dispelled - BBC News](#)