



Hazeldown Primary School

Maudlin Drive, Teignmouth TQ14 8SE  
Tel: 01626 772951  
admin@hazeldown.devon.sch.uk  
www.hazeldown.co.uk

# Helping Children Read



**"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."**

Joseph Addison - 17<sup>th</sup> Century poet and essayist

**"Babies are born with the instinct to speak; the way spiders are born with the instinct to spin webs. You don't need to train babies to speak; they just do. But reading is different."**

Steven Pinker - Psychologist and specialist in language development in children

## Reading in Key Stage 1

At Hazeldown, we believe books and stories hold a world full of magic and imagination. We believe every child has a right to be part of this world and, if we work together, giving your children the tools and knowledge required, we will unlock their ability to become a reader.

### **At Hazeldown, we:**

- Treat all children as readers, accepting their version of stories, even if they are unable to read the words.
- We use a wide range of resources which allows children the opportunity to read a breadth of books.
- Have a book banding system which offers controlled vocabulary, appropriate to the individual's ability called Accelerated Reader. Within this we encourage children to choose a range of books, according to their interests.
- Teach the skills and mechanics of reading, ie using phonics (sounds) and whole words to make sense of text.
- Help children understand what they are reading by teaching the skills of comprehension, inference and deduction.
- Value all reading attempts.
- Build upon the knowledge the children already have and help them read with confidence, accuracy, independence and real understanding.

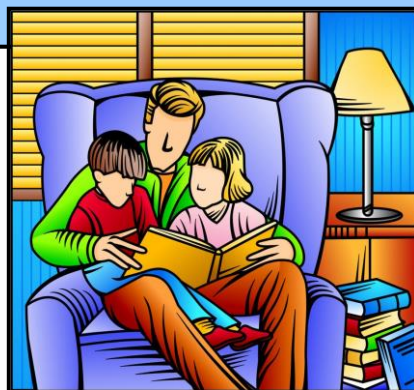
We pride ourselves on a long tradition of partnership with parents and realise that a child's full potential will only be recognised with dedicated support from both school and home.

Reading regularly with your child is the most important thing you can do to help nurture curiosity and knowledge about the world, strengthen vocabulary and comprehension skills and model the joy of reading. This can also be used as a special 'adult and child' or family time.

Here are some tips to help your child with reading at home.

## You should:

- Set aside a regular time for reading, so that it becomes part of your child's routine.
- Find time to read three or four times a week as this really makes a massive difference to a child's progress.
- Find somewhere quiet. Not always easy, we know!
- Read your child a story as well as listening to him/her read.
- Try not to get overly worried if your child is struggling with a book. Keep smiling, let them talk about the pictures to help them make sense of the story, take turns in reading a page or read the rest to them.
- Make the reading experience fun. Enjoy laughing together at the funny bits. Encourage different voices for different characters.
- Talk about what might happen next - prediction is a vital skill.
- Ask questions linked to the text to encourage understanding.
- Read from a wide material: magazines, newspapers, comics, fiction and non-fiction, poetry.
- Encourage others to read to your child. This could be grandparents, older siblings, friends etc.
- Join the local library for an endless supply of free books. You may even wish to take part in their 'Book Track' scheme.
- Try to ensure your child's book bag and reading books are in school every day. Even if your child is still reading one of the books, please still send the books and book bags in.
- Write comments in the Reading Record Book. We value these immensely as it gives us an insight into your child's attitude and their likes/dislikes. Please write positive comments in these books. If you are concerned about an aspect of your child's reading development, please speak to the teacher or write them a note.



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