



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 - a 17<sup>th</sup> Century poet and essayist and co-founder of The Spectator magazine.

**"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."**

A psychologist and specialist in language development in children once said.

## Reading in Key Stage 2

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 called Accelerated Reader which offers controlled vocabulary, appropriate to the individual's ability. 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.

As your child becomes more proficient as a reader they will want to read to themselves rather than you. When this happens, use time to talk to your child about what they are reading;

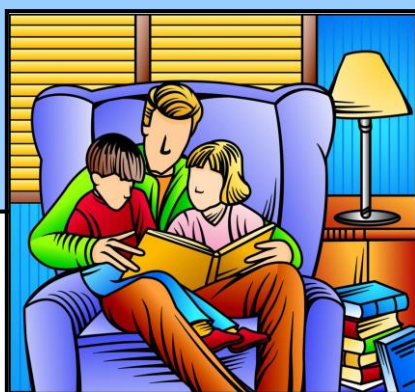
*What do you like about the book? Who is your favourite character? What do you think will happen next?*

Try modelling good reading habits by reading alongside your child.

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 routine.
- Find somewhere quiet. Not always easy, we know, but bedtime might be the best solution.
- Make the reading experience fun. Enjoy laughing together at the funny bits.
- Read from a wide range of genres (or styles) and material: magazines, newspapers, comics, fiction and non-fiction, etc.
- Join the local library for an endless supply of free books. Take part in their 'Book Track' scheme.
- Ensure your child's reading book is in school every day.
- Write comments in the Reading Record Book. We value these immensely as it gives us an insight into your child's attitude and 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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