

Reading FAQs

1. What if my child reads books that are not on the Accelerated Reader quiz programme?

At home, your child can read books that aren't on the AR programme, as long as they read their Accelerated Reader book in school. If your child finishes their book at home then, instead of taking a quiz, they will need to complete this book review (attached) on the book, at the back of their pink books. They will need to show this book review to their English teacher.

2. Should my child be reading out loud or in their head?

Both styles of reading are effective. As your child becomes more confident with reading, you should notice that they find it easier to read in their head. However, reading aloud can support a child with sounding out and learning new words. If they read in their head, be careful to check what they have read – teenagers are very well practised at 'looking' like they're reading when they're not!

3. Should I be listening to my child read?

Yes! Reading with an adult is one of the best ways of supporting a child's progress with their reading. By asking questions, helping them understand new words and checking their understanding, you will be helping your child's reading brain to grow.

4. How can I best help my child when reading with them?

Stop them at key moments and ask them to explain what they have read. Asking 'why' questions can help extend their understanding too. For example, 'why has that character behaved like that?' Sometimes there is no right or wrong answer and so just seeing where the conversation takes you can help to grow their reading brain (we will be running a session soon on how to use questions to support your child's reading too- look out for it)!

5. What are your shorter book recommendations?

Please see the book list, hyperlinked here, for shorter book recommendations that your child may enjoy.

- Boy Giant: Son of Gulliver by Michael Morpurgo (Adventure)
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney (Comedy and Adventure)
- Matilda by Roald Dahl (Comedy and Fantasy)
- Groosham Grange by Anthony Horowitz (Comedy and Adventure)
- Coraline by Neil Gaiman – This is also available in our library as a graphic novel (Mystery and Action Adventure)
- Attack of the Demon Dinner Ladies by Pamela Butchart (Adventure)

6. My child has dyslexia. What strategies can you recommend to support them?

For children who have difficulties learning to read, the effort needed to concentrate can be exhausting and can often lead to frustration and a reluctance to try to learn. Recognising this and helping to put good habits in place to support with this frustration can help to maintain your child's enjoyment of reading. We recommend trying the following techniques:

- 1. Paired reading-** this is a good way to help your child to read and enjoy books. Allow your child to choose a book they want to read and let them start reading. When they make a mistake, give your child a few seconds to have a go, but then say the word yourself - this keeps the flow going. If the book is too hard for your child, read the words together. Read at your child's pace. Let your child decide on a signal they can give you when they want to carry on reading on their own. If they make a mistake, say the word and then carry on reading together. You can switch from reading together to your child reading alone. Try to do this for 10 minutes every day - share the book together rather than 'hear' your child read. At the end of a page or section, talk about what you've read together. Ask what might happen next and whether it reminds your child of another story or film.

2. **E- readers-** these are apps (such as Kindle) and they enable children to read for pleasure. An ordinary page of text can be split into several pages, and you can adjust the font type, size and spacing, and the brightness of the screen.
3. **Screen readers** are a type of software that converts text to speech and are more suited to the older learner. Many are now available as free apps for smartphones and tablets, and have been included on some e-readers as standard. You could perhaps look into getting one, to support your child with reading at home.
4. **Listening to audio books** can help children keep an interest in stories even when they are reluctant to read. They help a child develop key skills such as listening and concentration, and are a good introduction to new words and ways of using language. Some audio book apps will highlight the text on screen as it is being read, which can help your child identify words. Below are a list of websites that offer free audio books. Why not check one out or speak to the school librarian about ordering some in?

[RNIB Bookshare](#) is a free service which offers audio books or books in a screen reader-friendly format to educational institutions. Ask your school or college whether they have registered.

[Listening Books](#) also offer low-cost annual membership to access their vast library of audio books. Low-income families are also eligible to apply for free membership.

[Callibre Audio](#) brings the joy of audiobooks to anyone struggling to access print, so they can immerse themselves in wonderful stories, memorable biographies or travel the world in their mind.

5. **Extra Resources-** The British Dyslexia Association has created a series of videos for teachers called [Teaching for Neurodiversity](#) which cover a range of topics such as spelling, writing and homework. You may find them helpful to support learning at home.