



[Recommended Reading Information / Advice for Parents](#)

We have issued all our children with a list of recommended reading books to help guide their choices. Most of the books are available on the shelves at school or can be ordered for free and taken on loan for free at Tring Library.

Every child is different in their reading ability and interests.

Books aren't medicine to be forced down they should be exciting and fun; used to open doorways into other worlds, feelings and points of view. There is no such thing as a bad book; it's the habit of regular reading that counts.

Reading starts to get exciting when your child starts to read on their own. They begin to develop their own taste in books although like most playground fads certain writers and books go in and out of fashion.

It would be a shame if you and your child stopped reading together and we would encourage you to still do so. It's an opportunity for closeness and a time to share your own favourite childhood reading and in turn to enjoy their choice of contemporary books.

Do be careful when trying to introduce books you loved as a child. Often our memories will be hazy as to precisely how old we were (you were probably older than you remember). Some of the heavier classics may well be a turn off to children used to easy reads like Captain Underpants or Rainbow Fairies. Classic fiction may be appreciated in time but please don't force it.

How to help your child choose 'Just Right' books

Remember reading should be fun.

Choose a book that interests *them*.

Look at the cover

Read the title and the author

Read the Blurb on the back

Use the ***Five Finger Rule***

Think about the ***5 Finger Rule*** when choosing a book. Read one page and hold up a finger for each word you can't figure out.

5 fingers held up means it's too hard and you should choose a different book or ask someone to read it to you.

4 fingers means the book might be too challenging perhaps read it with a friend or adult.

3 fingers mean it is challenging but give it a try.

2 fingers it's just right for you. Enjoy!

1 finger means it's easy to read maybe try something more challenging next time.

Strategies to help your child read unfamiliar words

Try breaking it up and sounding it out

Can you use your knowledge of the meanings of parts of words?
Look at the beginning letters and ending letters. (Prefixes/suffixes etc.)

Look for a smaller word within the word

Skip the word and read the rest of the sentence. Can you guess the word now?

Are there any pictures to give you clues?

Is the word similar to other words you know already?

Can you guess the meaning from information you have already? What word might make sense? Use the words around it to guess.

Does your guessed word look like the word you can *see*?

Does it sound right? Ask a friend or an adult.

It is hoped that the recommended reading lists will be on the Bishop Wood School website soon.

Other useful websites

www.booktrusted.co.uk

www.doublecluck.com

www.ukchildrensbooks.co.uk