

Why is teaching reading so important?

The reading framework

Teaching the foundations of literacy

January 2022

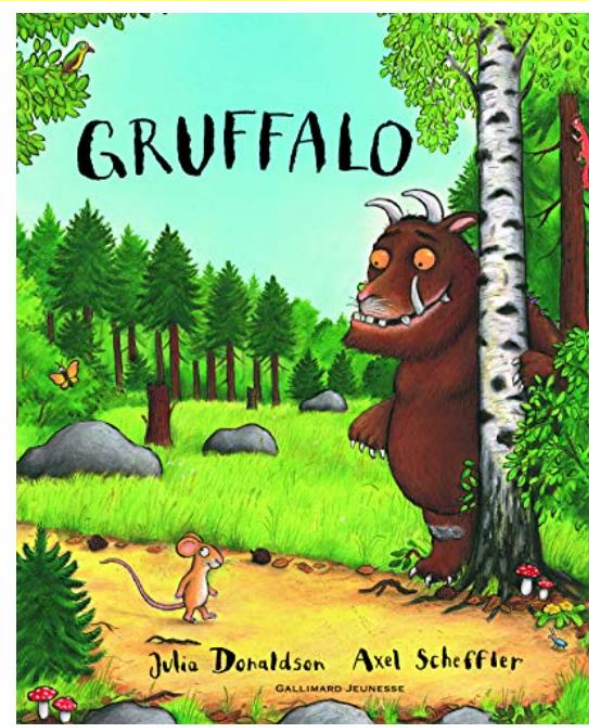
What Are the Benefits of Reading for Children?

The importance of reading for children cannot be underestimated. Reading for pleasure can benefit a child's education, social and cognitive development, their wellbeing, and their mental health.

Introduction

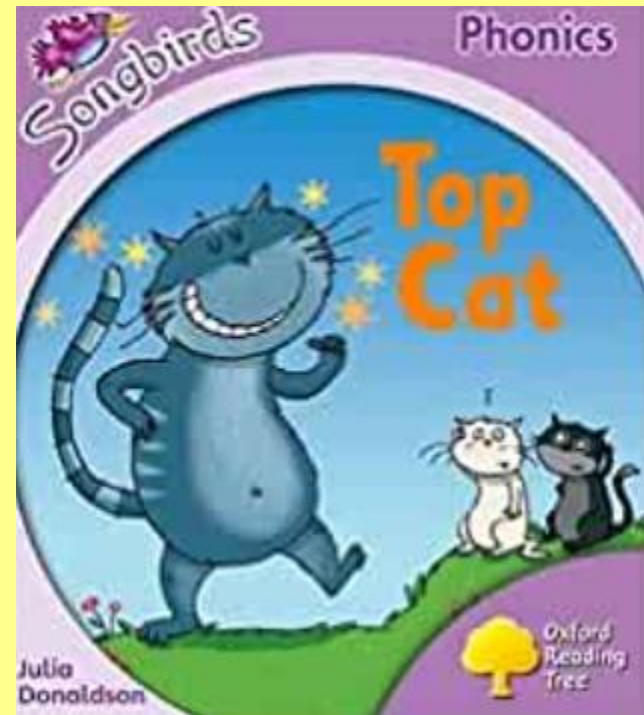
Reading is fundamental to education. Proficiency in reading, writing and spoken language is vital for pupils' success. Through these, they develop communication skills for education and for working with others: in school, in training and at work.

First we learn to read, then we read to learn.



Language comprehension

How language works: sentences, rhyme, repetition, vocabulary development, discussing stories and storytelling, learning poems and songs, nursery rhymes, joining in with familiar parts



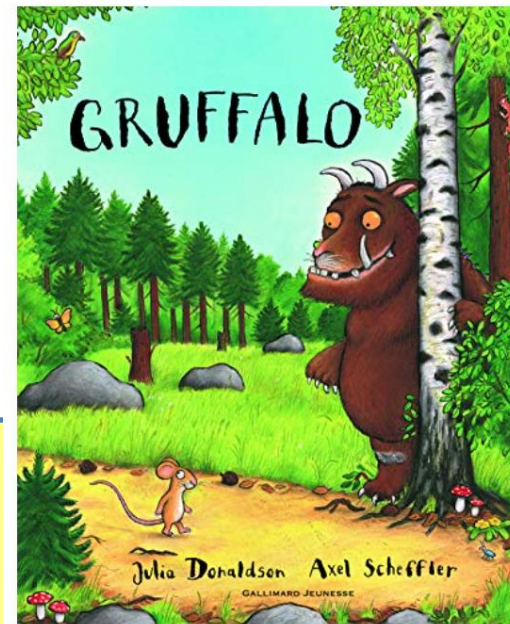
Decoding/word reading

Systematic phonics teaching.
Phoneme/grapheme correspondence
Blending – decodable

Children need both good language comprehension and good word reading to become good readers.

Reading at home

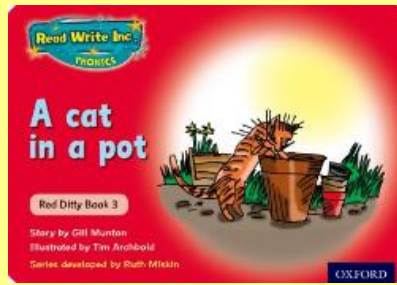
- Find somewhere quiet and cosy.
- Turn off the television and avoid distractions.
- Give your child your full attention.
- Little and often is better than a long session.
- Read to your child.
- Share a book together
- Read favourites again and again!



Reading at school



- Daily phonic session
- Blending words and sentences in phonic session. Green word cards/ Ditty Sheets.
- Shared reading session – RWInc book. (daily)
- Whole class shared reading of a book, once or twice a day.
- Interactive stories and activities on the class whiteboard.

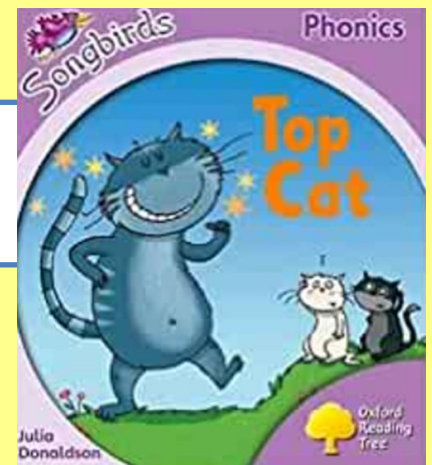


Reading at school

During reading time we:

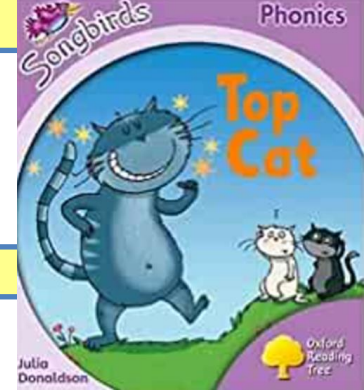
- Reinforce phonic knowledge – blending.
- Discuss punctuation and use terminology e.g. full-stop, sentence, question mark.
- Look at the features such as the title and blurb.
- Explore different genre types.
- Question to check for understanding.
- Model reading with expression.

Reading at home

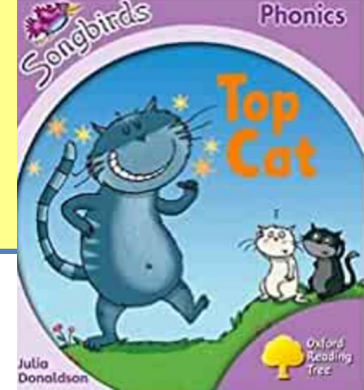


- Books without text help develop reading skills.
- Talking about what they see will help children later with their reading and writing skills.
- Even when there is text, encourage children to expand and talk about the pictures as this helps their language development.

Start at the beginning...



- Talk about the front cover – predict what’s going to happen.
- Discuss the author, illustrator etc.
- Use terminology e.g. blurb, front cover, title page.
- Count the letters and words in the title – what is the difference between a letter and a word?
- Read or encourage them to read the blurb; what clues does it give you?
- Ensure they handle the book carefully.

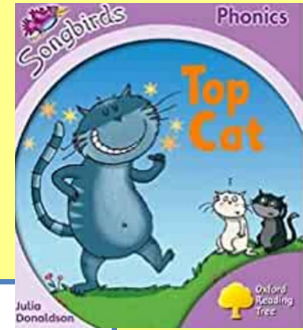


- The magic finger – left to right.
- First books are repetitive. They will learn them off by heart – this is OK!
- These are phonic books, so your child should be able to sound out most of the words.
- Don't cover up the pictures to “test” your child as using the pictures is a good strategy if they are stuck on a word.

Getting stuck...

- Use the initial sound, picture and context for clues.
- If it is a long word, break it up to sound out, e.g. r-a-bb-i-t.
- If your child guesses using the picture then get them to check they are correct using the phonemes
- Don't let them struggle as it will take away from the meaning as well as cause your child to become frustrated.
- Explain new sounds if appropriate.

Reading at home



- Please bring book folders to school every day.
- Please record reading in the reading diary and aim to read at home every day.
- First, your child will bring home a 'Ditty' to read.
- Then, they may bring home a book they have been reading at school for further reading.
- Next, your child may be asked to choose their own book from a selection that are phonetically decodable. They may choose the same book twice. This is fine and helps to develop fluency.
- They will also bring sound booklets to practise phonics and Worm words for practising recognising high frequency words.
- They will also bring a 'story book' for you to read together

How to help your child at home

- Listen to your child little and often (5 minutes a day makes a huge difference!).
- Share a bedtime story where you read to your child.
- Discuss the books you are reading.

Use these prompts to help you:

- Why do you think the character did that?
- How is the character feeling?
- Why is the character feeling that way?
- What do you think will happen next?
- What did you like / not like about the story?

How to help your child at home

- Join the library (we visit the library later in the year).
- Read words in the environment.
- Laptops / iPads – good quality games (Hairy Letters, CBeebies storytime).
- Talk to your child in Fred Talk – eg: ‘Please get your c-oa-t.’
- Use the Worm Words for sight recognition and to make sentences.
- Information about phonics and resources to help can be found on the school website.

