



Home Reading Program

Our home reading program celebrates the learning that comes from reading a great book. You know it's a great book when you enjoy reading it too. Great books give children the opportunity to practice known words, be exposed to new beautiful language and learn patterns of language structure. Great books encourage our children to **love reading** and to **become smarter**.

Book Selection

Initially students are instructed to choose a book that they are interested in. As they become readers they are then encouraged to select a balance of books based on: interest, whether they can read it independently and different text types.

Books can be chosen from collections:

- in the classroom
- at home
- in the library

Strategies in Action

Your child will be learning many reading strategies in class. These are strategies experienced readers naturally use.

Reading to your child allows you to model good reading strategies in action and helps children to build connections and expand comprehension.

Reading with your child slows the use of strategies down so that they can practice using them without the pressure to get the text right as you will be picking up the 'tricky bits'. A great strategy to practice when reading with your child is echo reading where you read a line and then they copy. It allows for stress free success!

When a book is **read by** your child it slows the use of strategies down so they can practice being independent readers.

Why not levelled readers?

Levelled readers were initially designed for remedial reading programs (struggling readers). We expand the purpose and now use them as an **instructional tool for teachers** to analyse what reading or comprehension strategies are not being utilised by your child. These include: decoding, phonics, reading for meaning, using picture cues, comprehending and inferring. Teachers use their expertise to set targets for your child and plan and teach using a book '*on your child's level*' to meet those specific targets.

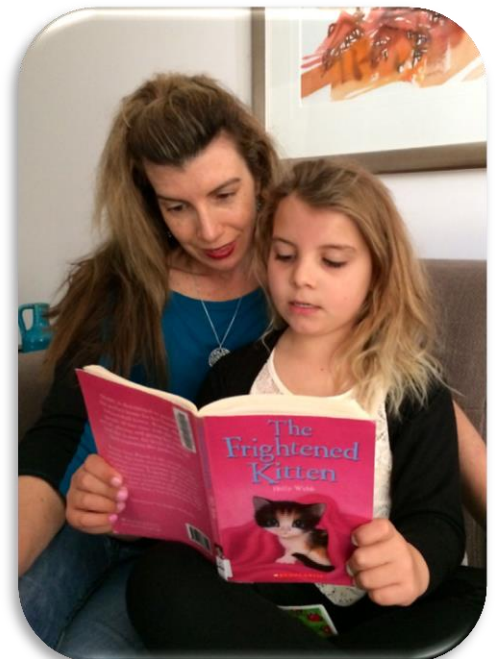
This becomes **part** of the classroom learning program. Levelled readers are simple in their language construction, do not always include quality illustrations and are less motivating to read. This is why it's important that great books are the centre of our home reading program.

How do I know if my child is progressing in their reading?

They will be reading more by choice at home, choosing a range of texts, increasing number of known sight words and building their vocabulary. For more information you can talk to your child's teacher as they keep a record of the strategies and skills your child is adding to their reading repertoire.

What if my child is struggling?

The class teacher collects detailed data about the progress of students who are not meeting reading benchmarks for their year group. This may include an assessment of a levelled reader (PM Benchmark), conferencing observations, a strategy map (First Steps Reading Maps), phonics checklist and classroom observations. Teachers will have identified step by step targets for your child and it is important that you talk with them to see how you can work with them to help your child achieve their targets.



Ten read-aloud commandments

Mem Fox

1. Spend at least ten wildly happy minutes every single day reading aloud. From birth!
2. Read at least three stories a day: it may be the same story three times. Children need to hear a thousand stories before they can begin to learn to read. Or the same story a thousand times!
3. Read aloud with animation. Listen to your own voice and don't be dull, or flat, or boring. Hang loose and be loud, have fun and laugh a lot.
4. Read with joy and enjoyment: real enjoyment for yourself and great joy for the listeners
5. Read the stories that your child loves, over and over, and over again, and always read in the same 'tune' for each book: i.e. with the same intonations and volume and speed, on each page, each time.
6. Let children hear lots of language by talking to them constantly about the pictures, or anything else connected to the book; or sing any old song that you can remember; or say nursery rhymes in a bouncy way; or be noisy together doing clapping games
7. Look for rhyme, rhythm or repetition in books for young children, and make sure the books are really short.
8. Play games with the things that you and the child can see on the page, such as letting kids finish rhymes, and finding the letters that start the child's name and yours, remembering that it's never work, it's always a fabulous game.
9. Never ever teach reading, or get tense around books.
10. Please read aloud every day because you just adore being with your child, not because it's the right thing to do.

<http://memfox.com/for-parents/for-parents-ten-read-aloud-commandments/>

“Readers read to get smarter and learn about themselves, other people, and the world. Reading empowers them to control their own lives and make the world a better place.”

Debbie Miller: Reading with Meaning 2013