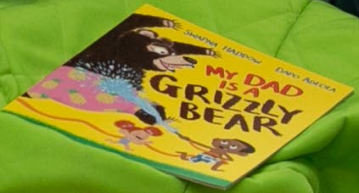


Reading for Pleasure Guide

Written by Get Hounslow Reading Ambassadors







Contents

Introduction: Cultivating a love for reading	4
Contingent Talk	5
Build your knowledge of children’s books	8
Know your children	9
Opinions matter	10
Diverse and dynamic reading environment	13
Engage parents and community	14
Create engaging activities	15
Empower children and make reading enjoyable	16
Utilise multimodal approaches	19
Celebrate reading milestones and create community	21
Embrace technology for engagement	22
Conclusion: Celebrating the love of reading together	23



Introduction: Cultivating a love for reading

This handy little guide has been written by teachers for teachers across mainstream and SEND settings.



Since 2021, Get Hounslow Reading (GHR) teachers and ambassadors have been working together to embed a culture and ethos of Reading for Pleasure in our schools.

We wanted to produce a simple teacher-friendly guide with our top tips for achieving Reading for Pleasure success in your setting from day one.

Throughout this guide, we will explore practical strategies aimed at making reading an enjoyable experience for our children and young people. From tailoring book recommendations to engaging in enriching activities, we will help you nurture a generation of avid readers who find joy, inspiration, and endless discovery within the pages of a book.



Contingent talk with books

**Contingent Talk is a programme
for children who:**

- Lack vocabulary
- Find it hard to engage with whole-class story time
- Potentially miss out on story-time at home
- Do not choose to look at books
- Struggle to access adult-led learning

The following pages show some posters of Contingent talk strategies to use in your setting.

Contingent Talk Strategies



Holding the book

Make the child the boss of the book.



Joint attention

Focus on what the child's interested in.



Naming

Point and say the words.



Pausing more

Allow the child to think.



Linking

Linking the book to the child's life.



Recasting and expanding

Build on the words the child says.



Prosody

Model the 'music' of language.



What do you think

Asking for an opinion, recasting and expanding.



Question tags

Introduce information inclusively.



I wonder...

Thinking about possibility / joint attention.

Contingent Talk Top Tips

 **Find a quiet space.**

 **Choose the books.**

Quality illustrations that will inspire the children to talk and offer lots of opportunities to build vocabulary.

 **Choose the child.**


Children who:

- Lack vocabulary.
- Find it hard to engage with whole-class story time.
- Potentially miss out on story-time at home.
- Do not choose to look at books.
- Struggle to access adult-led learning.

 **Be prepared to take notes.**

 **Know your strategies.**

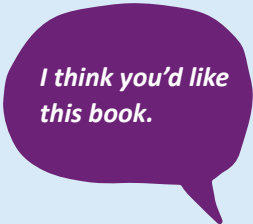
 **Get ready to enjoy the experience.**




Build your knowledge of children's books

- Expand your knowledge of children's literature by reading widely.
- Recommend books based on individual preferences.
- Stay updated on new releases and classic children's books.
- Share your passion for reading with children.
- Engage in professional development to stay informed about children's literature.
- Sign up to literary organisations who showcase new publications regularly.
- Visit your local independent bookshop and have a browse and a chat.
- Engage your school library service to help you choose books that fit your demographic.
- Encourage diverse reading experiences.


Use words like:



I think you'd like this book.



I've discovered a great book you might enjoy.



Here's something different for you to explore.

Know your children



- Get to know each child's interests and reading level.
- Recommend books tailored to their unique tastes.
- Enjoy their joy as they discover a book they love.
- Notice what excites each child and surprise them with fitting books.
- Prompt children to explore new genres and authors.
- Recommend diverse books to spark curiosity.
- Create moments of delight by surprising children with unexpected book gifts.
- Leave a book on a child's chair with a sticky note and a message.
- Write personalised notes showing you've thought about their interests.

Use words like:

This book reminded me of you.

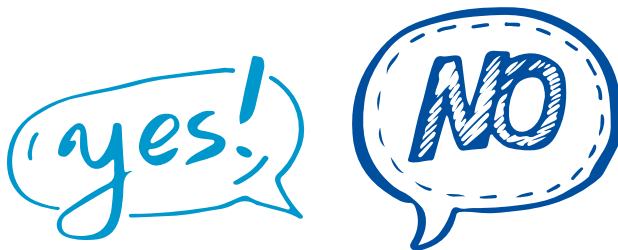
I've found the perfect book for you.

Give this a try, I think you'll enjoy it.



Opinions matter

- Find out pupils' likes and dislikes once you've finished a story. This can form some great discussions.
- Add a voting system to encourage pupil voice.
- Ask pupils to bring in their favourite stories to share with each other. Peer recommendations can often encourage reluctant readers to have a go.
- Create a safe environment where children can share their opinions. Others can disagree, but they have to be respectful and be able to explain why.



EROSCAPE

"Perfect for gamers, puzzle-heads and fact-fans"
Ross Montgomery

LEGENDARIUM

JENNIFER BELL

NEW

"Sharp, fast-paced and full of heart."
Elle McNicoll

The adventures where books and video games collide!



Reading for Pleasure

With so many amazing new books to choose from, we would love to hear your recommendations.

THE ECHOES


THE ECHOES

THE ECHOES

THE ECHOES







Diverse and dynamic reading environments

Quality over quantity

- Limit the number of books in your reading corner and keep a rotation to keep texts feeling fresh.
- Ask your library service to come and weed out old books and help you identify any gaps in your collections.
- Ask your library service to come and run a library session with your class.
- Display a range of books with front covers facing to entice and make choosing easier.
- Link books that match your school's values.

Reflect diversity

- Focus on diversity in books, ensuring children see themselves reflected in the stories they read.

- Have texts in different formats for children with SEND.
- Have multilingual books available.

Categorise books

- Sort books into genres like: classics, real life, sports, historical.
- Sort books into types like: wordless, picture, graphic novels, comic books, poetry, chapter books.
- Introduce e-books, audio books and interactive reading apps.
- Add books to displays which are relevant to topics you are covering in class.



Engage parents and community

- Invite parents into school to share books in their home language and to read stories to the class.
- Host parent drop-ins, reading cafés and workshops to emphasise the importance of reading for pleasure.
- Show parents how to create a cosy reading nook.
- Encourage parents to establish a regular reading routine at home.
- Model reading aloud to parents, using different voices for characters.
- Remind parents that Reading for Pleasure is different from comprehension; it's about the joy involved in sharing a book with their child.
- Inform parents about literacy events happening in the community, such as author visits, book fairs, or storytelling festivals.
- Suggest that parents take their children to the local library regularly. Libraries offer a wide range of books for all ages and often host storytelling sessions or reading clubs.
- Organise small groups of children to visit a book shop with their parents. Ask the book shop to do a read aloud or a book blast of the recommendations.

Create engaging activities

- Create reading journeys showing book choices from earliest memories to the present day. Involve parents in this too.
- Encourage children to create posters, 3D artwork, and board games based on their favourite books.
- Set up regular reading competitions to motivate children to read more.
- Take children who win competitions to a book shop to choose their prize.
- Connect books with similar themes or authors to guide children's reading choices.
- You can wrap up books in brown paper and pass around so children get a randomly chosen book to read.





Empower children and make reading enjoyable

- Let children generate wish lists of books and involve them in selecting books for the classroom.
- Create inviting reading areas that promote discussion and enjoyment of books.
- Show enthusiasm for reading and share what you've been reading with your class.
- Introduce a voting system for children to choose the next read-aloud.
- Model how to recommend different texts and encourage the children to do the same.







The Thunderbird
Native American
Myth

Utilise multimodal approaches

- Engage the senses and bring stories to life using puppets, instruments, and play-doh.
- Use symbols to help with understanding and encourage responses to stories.
- Use props when reading a story; children could create their own for their favourite stories.



Celebrate reading milestones and create community


- Give each child a reading passport with titles of books they can read throughout the year and reward milestones.
- Introduce Reading for Pleasure through clubs that combine reading with hands-on activities.
- Run clubs at different times of the day to encourage parents to drop in too.
- Have a special assembly to reward reading milestones and invite your parent community.



Embrace technology for engagement

- Use digital platforms like Jamboards to facilitate book discussions and recommendations in an interactive way.
- Introduce e-books, audio books and reading apps to your children and parents as another way to encourage Reading for Pleasure.
- Use an interactive platform like Google classroom or Padlet to add reading recommendations for you and your children to access.





Conclusion: Celebrating the love of reading together

In this guide, we have explored various strategies, from personalised recommendations to engaging activities and community involvement, all aimed at making reading a joyful part of our classroom culture.

By creating welcoming reading environments, involving parents, celebrating achievements, and embracing diversity, we're laying the groundwork for our students to become enthusiastic readers.

Let's continue to champion the magic of storytelling, inspire our students to explore new worlds through books, and celebrate every step they take on their reading journey. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of our students and instil in them a love for reading that will stay with them forever.





Acknowledgements

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