








Beginner Readers

These are the most important things we, as parents and teachers, want beginner readers to learn about reading:

-  How to look at a book, for example, to look at the cover and title.
-  How to get an idea of the story or the type of book.
-  How to hold a book the right way up and turn the pages.
-  How to retell what happens in the story and relate this to things that happen in their own lives.
-  understand the differences between print and pictures and that print carries meaning that never changes.
-  begin to recognise different types of stories, e.g. that stories starting 'once upon a time' usually end 'happily ever after.'
-  The connection between letters and the sounds that they make.

The first thing your child learns about books and reading is your attitude. Enjoy sharing books together as often as you can.

- * Find a quiet, comfortable place where you can sit together without interruption.
- * Look at the cover and talk about the title.
- * Encourage your child to hold the book and turn the pages.
- * Look at the pictures together. Talk about the characters and the things that are going on. Illustrations in a book help your child understand the story.
- * Explain that all books have a title and an author. Read the title to your child when you start a new book and who wrote it.
- * Point to individual letters in words and talk about their sounds. Start with the initial sound of your child's name.

(Extract from chapter on Beginning Reading)