LEARNING TO READ IS FUNDAMENTAL

At Flinders Park Primary School we work with each child to teach, support and monitor reading development with the support of families. Reading ability begins with speaking and language skills and is developed through learning of phonological awareness (letter-sound knowledge), decoding and comprehension strategies.

READING LEVELS/COLOURS

Your child will be assigned a reading level colour based on grouping of Reading Recovery Levels adopted across South Australia. This level is determined by reading with a teacher who will conduct a Running Record.

WHAT IS A RUNNING RECORD?

A Running Record is a reading assessment tool for analyzing a student’s reading ability to inform teaching and monitor progress. It involves a student reading a book aloud to a teacher. The teacher records correct words, attempts at unknown words and strategies the student uses to help. A percentage is calculated and students are given a level that is in an ‘instructional zone’. That is – not too easy or too hard but just right for keeping the meaning of the text with opportunities to work out new/unknown words.

When a teacher undertakes a running record with a student they are looking for

- Reading between 90-95% accuracy (only 1 error per 15-20 words)
- Use of reading strategies
- Self-correction
- Fluency
- Comprehension (literal and inferential)

If the child is able to demonstrate these reading behaviors and understands the text at an appropriate level they will progress to the next reading level.

WHAT LEVEL IS MY CHILD ON?

Your child will be supported to choose take-home books to read that are in the colour band that they are assigned by their teacher. This gives them the best opportunity to practise becoming fluent. It also enables them to comprehend meaning and retain enjoyment from reading. After level 30/White band students are more independent readers. They are then monitored using the Developmental Reading Assessment.

PICTURE BOOKS vs TAKE-HOME READERS

Often when children begin school we become ‘reader focused’. It is really important to not lose the importance of parents reading to children. Regularly reading of picture books (or chapter books as they get a little older) from home, school or public library has a big influence on reading development. Reading to children helps foster a love of reading, helps with learning how reading works ie left to right, that the meaning stays the same, that the pictures help to tell the story; and helps with knowing how language sounds when it is correct, fluent and expressive. Of course is also such an enjoyable time spent together.

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD WITH READING?

- Regular practice is very important. Assist your child to form a routine of borrowing both take-home readers and library books and finding 10 or more minutes a day to read to your child and for them to read to you.
- In the beginning stages help your child to practise their Jolly Phonics ‘tricky words’ (words to remember by sight) and blending boxes. Having letter sounds, sight words and blending as an automatic skill is the basis of beginning reading.
- Keep it fun and stress free. Praise effort.
- Encourage your child to do their best but don’t try to rush them through the coloured levels. Their reading will benefit from taking it slowly and making sure they are gaining fluency and are understanding what they are reading.
- Talk to teachers if you have any questions or concerns.
- Borrow our school copy of “How to read with your Child” DVD.
- Read to children – even when you think they are old enough to read alone!
READING LEVEL TARGETS

To aid in monitoring student progress in reading and to assist us in identifying students who may need support, Flinders Park Primary in consultation with the Western Adelaide Region of schools has set the following reading targets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year Level</th>
<th>Benchmark Reading Level colour</th>
<th>Target Reading Level colour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>End of Reception</td>
<td>End of yellow/ blue 8</td>
<td>Blue 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of Year 1</td>
<td>End of Green/Orange 14</td>
<td>Turquoise 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of Year 2</td>
<td>Gold 20</td>
<td>Silver 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of Year 3</td>
<td>Silver/ early chapter books 23</td>
<td>Emerald/White 25+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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‘Learning for Life’

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Tracking Your Child’s Reading at Flinders Park Primary

Reception-Year 3