



THE OAKTREE SCHOOL



Preparing the way for becoming a reader

Many children believe that when they go to school they will learn to read and they will achieve this on day one. It takes longer than that!

We have to remember that all children achieve things in different ways and at different times and reading is no exception.

Those children who come to school knowing about books and stories, who regard books as a source of enjoyment, excitement and information, already understand the purpose of reading and are eager to learn to read.

So long as this joy in books exists, they will become and remain confident readers.

People talk about going to school to "do the three R's"; reading, '(w)riting and '(a)rithmetic. But for these to be built on the right foundation, what children need are the three "T's"



Talking

Telling your child stories, poems, nursery rhymes - the things you did when you were young - will help her/him enormously. Above all, encourage your child to tell stories. Many children pretend to read by telling their favourite story in their own words and turning pages at the appropriate places. These children are showing us a lot about what they have learned. They have often retained a complex story in their heads; they know that the pictures and the story events complement each other; they know how a book works and, above all, they are experiencing the joy that books offer.

Children often ask for the same story again and again. As parents we may wish they would choose something different or, if they must choose one, why could it not be something of great literacy value instead of the dullest and dreariest book they possess? Don't worry; children who return to books are demonstrating a real love and response to them. These children are more likely to turn to books for the rest of their lives.

Talking to your child about everything and anything; sharing experiences and recounting together what you have done. Listening and valuing their talk, and

Telling

encouraging them through genuine questions, helps prepare your child for reading more than any other activity.

Throughout our life we will do more talking than writing.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (taught in Nursery and Reception) and the National Curriculum (taught in Year 1 and 2) has recognised the need to help children to become clear and confident communicators and listeners. Children who come to school who are able to express their needs and willing to listen to others are more likely to settle in quickly, make friends more easily and absorb learning more readily than children who have been taught to read at the expense of talking.

Thinking about stories and encouraging reflection and questions will help children gain a better understanding about language. Thinking and talking about why things happened, or what might happen, will help them to understand and come to terms with their own experiences. The happy ending found in books for young children may be unrealistic but is generally what we wish both for ourselves and for our children.

Thinking



From the beginning parents have a crucial part to play in helping their child to become a reader as parents are the first and most influential teachers.

When children share a book with an adult and there is plenty of -

Telling

Talking

Thinking

they pick up essential clues about the reading process.

