

# iCount Reading Partners

Building confidence and skills  
in reading for 7 to 11 year olds



imagination at work



# Welcome and introductions



# Outline of session

- How Reading Partners can make a difference
- What the school will do
- Types of book
- Helping strategies
- The launch event
- Meeting your new partner
- The first reading session
- Developing the partnership





# Why does early reading matter?

- Strong reading skills are essential for learning in all subjects
- Children who don't read well by age 11 may never catch up
- People with poor basic skills are 4x more likely to be long term unemployed



# Why Reading Partners?

- There's no substitute for practicing what you are taught
- Many children need extra motivation to read on their own
- Teachers have only limited time to hear every child read on a one to one basis
- Parents can help but may sometimes have other pressures



# The role of a Reading Partner

- Listening
- Encouraging
- Helping
- Building confidence
- Raising self esteem
- Improving communication skills



# What the school will do

- Select children who will most benefit
- Give guidance on each child's reading level
- Appoint a programme co-ordinator as your main in-school contact
- Host a launch event
- Organise regular reviews



# What your partner will read

- Picture books – limited text where the pictures tell the story
- Reading Scheme books – graded to ability and designed for specific learning
- ‘Real books’ – purely for enjoyment or information



# Strategies to work out words

- Synthetic phonics – building letter sounds
- Picture clues – what is happening?
- Context – does it make sense?
  - Re-reading a section if a word is wrong
  - Reading on if you get stuck on a word



# Examples of context strategies

## Re-reading

The child reads:

“John was so close to the window, his nose was teaching it.”

Did that make sense? Let’s read it again.



# Examples of context strategies

## Reading on

Janet b----t some red flowers for her Mum when she went to the shops.

“What word would make sense here using the letters you know?”

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# Some tips on punctuation

If a child reads on ignoring punctuation:

- wait until they pause
- see if they can work out what was wrong
- if not, read it to them without full stops
- as a last resort, try making it into a game

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# The launch event

- Welcome and introductions
- Security and other school procedures
- Logistics
- Communication
- Pupil behaviour rules
- Partner information





# Some Do's and Don'ts

## Do

- ✓ Sign in on each visit
- ✓ Carry or wear required ID at all times
- ✓ Give feedback to the Class Teacher, Co-ordinator and fellow volunteers
- ✓ Try to let the school know if you can't make a session

## Don't

- ✗ Give gifts or sweets – but send a postcard if on holiday
- ✗ Have physical contact with your child – sit side by side
- ✗ Attempt to enforce discipline – follow the process advised



# Meeting your new partner

- Introductions
- Share information
- Set the scene





# The first reading session

- Minimise distractions
- Before reading
- Interested listening
- Mistakes
- Compliments





# Developing the partnership - 1

Establish a routine for each session

- Exchanging news
- Choosing the books
- Previewing a new book





# Developing the partnership - 2

- Reading together
- The child reads alone
- Review what you have read
- Always find something to praise



# A quick test



# Summary

- Your friendship and interest are as important as the reading
- Establish a routine and try to stick to it
- Preview a new book together before starting to read
- Let your partner know it's OK to make mistakes
- Encourage them to find their own solutions if they can
- Use helping strategies your partner is familiar with
- Review what you have done together after each session
- Give praise at every opportunity

And above all – enjoy what you are doing



# Questions?

