

# Reading at home and Take Home Reading texts

Reading is one of the most important skills to be acquired for life. It is fundamental to function in society, as much is dependent upon being able to read. Reading develops the mind and imagination, helps us discover new things, expands our knowledge and increases our ability to think. Reading is a building block for life and needs to be encouraged.

Children who read at home increase their exposure to words which builds upon vocabulary and words meanings, increasing comprehension. Reading at home is an opportunity to practise skills and strategies learnt at school and also for leisure.

All children are encouraged to read at home and because the purpose of reading at home is to nurture a love of reading, be entertained and read for pleasure, the books children take home should be ones they are able to independently read. Children should be able to read most of the text without assistance, as the focus is on enjoyment of reading. Children are encouraged to:

- Choose books themselves from the Take Home reading text selection now located in the classroom under the guidance of the class teacher.
- Keep a book for more than one night for multiple reads. This helps to develop familiarity and repetitive reading also assists with reading fluency.
- Explore a range of reading material beyond Take home texts including notes, letters, text extracts, newspaper articles, brochures, digital texts, non-fiction texts, recipes, street signs, brochures and books selected from your local library.

Reading levels, as determined by reading and comprehension assessments, inform the instructional reading level on which skill development is focused. Teachers support learners to develop their reading and comprehension ability to make deep meanings of texts and competently respond to comprehension questions. Reading levels are important for teachers to target strategies in the classroom and match children to appropriate reading material. Children may choose reading material that is below their reading level as determined by the teacher or by their interest.

Reading is important, but most importantly, reading at home needs to be an enjoyable experience for children.

Please support your child by showing an interest in what they read, listening to them read, asking questions about their learnings and providing encouraging feedback.

The following quote is from education professor Kaye Lowe

*You make a difference to your children's reading journey. Your role as an advocate for your children's reading success cannot be overestimated. It has a direct impact on the ease and confidence with which they pursue their reading and writing.*

*It is the joy and love of sharing a good book on a nightly basis that sets the foundation for their reading success, and ensures that reading is given the priority it deserves. Reading regularly with someone who cares is the inspiration that all readers deserve.*

*As parents and carers, you create the home context for reading and set the tone for how reading is valued. Fear, anxiety, stress and humiliation have no place in the reading experience. The 'payoff' for reading together has to be worth coming back to night after night after night. When reading together is the best time of your children's day and the best time of your day, it is worth turning up. The right book infused with fun, laughter, and love goes a long way in creating life-long readers who in thirty years' time recall with joy being snuggled on the lounge with you and their favourite book.*

[http://www.petaa.edu.au/imis\\_prod/w/Teaching\\_Resources/For\\_parents/Parents\\_Guide/w/Teaching\\_Resources/Parents\\_guide.aspx?hkey=94e9655-3f94-4534-9f77-e23d9c40a640](http://www.petaa.edu.au/imis_prod/w/Teaching_Resources/For_parents/Parents_Guide/w/Teaching_Resources/Parents_guide.aspx?hkey=94e9655-3f94-4534-9f77-e23d9c40a640)

