**Reading at Home with your Child – both reading to your child and sharing their reading books**

Good for lots of reasons –

* Spending quality time together
* Developing a love of reading
* Increasing speaking and listening skills
* Increasing vocabulary
* Confidence building
* Help with writing skills

Early reading – children being read to - encourages them to be able to hear and play with sounds in their heads, skills children need to have in order to be able to pick up reading efficiently. Also, singing songs, especially nursery rhymes, counting rhymes etc, help with memory, hearing sounds, rhyming, vocabulary, structure and patterns. Children who don’t have these experiences when they are young can have problems which can slow them down when they are learning to read.

So, when you are singing songs, especially ones intended for children, you are helping them develop early reading skills!

Look at the phonics and other English games on Education City; your child has a log in for this site given by school. Ask your child’s teacher for it again if you have lost it. There are hundreds of educational games your child can play on Education City.

There is lots of good stuff on the internet, especially the CBeebies website. It is loads better if you go on it with your child because you can chat about what they are doing, discuss it afterwards etc. and your child will get loads more from the experience.

ERR, the way we teach reading at Arbury, teaches children the skills of decoding words. We also do lots and lots of reading books with them, but we need you to do this too. If you have an IPad or IPhone, there is a free app called Cambugs which will help with the ERR letter sounds. There are a couple of more advanced apps from the same maker called Cambugs Phonics (£2.29) and Cambugs First Words (£3.99).

Some children will find reading hard to pick up for all sorts of reasons, for those children we need to do more songs, games, reading together etc. to keep it fun and encourage them to persevere. A little bit of reading every day works best for children when learning to read. Remember you can read signs, notices etc when you are out and about, it’s all reading.

Reading takes lots of practice, we cannot do it in school alone, we need to work together on this, especially if we want children to develop a love of reading and to reach their full potential.

March 2020   