



Foundation Home Reading Information

Everything parents and carers need to know about supporting your child to read at home.

Why do we need to read at home?

In the Foundation year of school, children are taught how to read. Ten minutes of daily reading practise at home, with a supportive adult, can make a huge difference in your child's confidence and fluency when reading.



How often should my child read with me?

Daily home practise is important, however, we understand that life can get busy. A good average would be 10 minutes, 4 days a week.



How can I support my child when reading?

In Term 1, it is important to develop a good home reading routine by setting aside time each day to read and discuss books with your child. Young children benefit greatly from being read to daily using a variety of books. Talk about the story before and after reading. Ask your child to tell you what happened in the book.

From Term 2, follow the procedures set out in the InitialLit-F Home Reading Diary. When your child gets stuck on a word, encourage him/her to have a go at sounding out the word. If necessary, demonstrate what this looks like first.

Remember to praise with abundance when your child is successful at working out a word, or when your child goes back to have another go. Never tell your child to 'guess' a word or use the picture to help them: always keep the focus on letters and sounds.

Learning to read initially requires a lot of effort for many children and at this early stage much patience is required. Do not expect them to be reading overnight! It is important to build up confidence and allow children to enjoy success as they work out words with your help. If your child stumbles over a tricky word that can't be sounded out, simply give him/her the word and ask him/her to repeat it. 'Tricky words' can be practised at home, using the list at the back of the InitialLit-F Home Reading Diary. Only practise the lists that have already been taught in the lessons. Finish by checking that your child has understood what has been read.

When will my child bring home readers?

At Strathfieldsaye Primary School, we follow the InitialLit approach to teaching phonics and reading skills. This means, students will bring home **decodable readers** from the start of Term 2. However, to support your child in developing positive habits and routines, your child will bring home picture story books and other predictable texts during Term 1 for you to read to them.

What are decodable Readers?

Decodable Readers contain words that students can 'sound out'. Children will use their knowledge of letter-sound relationships that they have been taught in class. It is important at this early stage, that students do not 'guess' a word based on the picture. Encourage your child to use the sound that matches the letter to **decode** these early readers.



Our Decodable Readers are identified using this label.



How should I use the Home Reading Diary?

Each term your child will be given a new InitialLit-F Home Reading Diary. Each Home Reading Diary contains helpful information about reading with your child. These instructions will help you to engage your child with the book. Use this diary to keep a record of what your child has read and which books you have read to your child. Your teacher will want to see this diary on a weekly basis, please make sure that it is in your reader bag every day. We will also use this to keep track of our reading nights.

InitialLit-F
My Home Reading Diary
Term 1



This diary belongs to: Class:



When is the best time to read at home?

Provide a quiet place at home with no distractions, so both you and your child can focus on the task at hand. It is a good idea to provide a rest or snack immediately after school, prior to commencing home reading. Try not to rush the session or leave it too late in the day. Creating a positive reading experience is vital.

Reading at home should be a successful and positive experience. If it is turning into a very stressful time, please consult your child’s class teacher for advice.



What else can I do to support my child at home?

There will be many, many informal opportunities to develop your child’s language at home. Talk to your child, using interesting vocabulary. Explain new words. Join a local library and borrow books to read to your child daily. Talk about the stories you read to your child. Restrict screen time and replace with opportunities to develop oral language.

Help develop your child’s curiosity about language and the sounds within words by playing word and sound games such as ‘I Spy’. Teach your child nursery rhymes. Revise the sounds for the letters that they are learning and help them work out words using their sounds. As the year progresses, practise the tricky words that they have learned. The most important thing is to keep it light and playful but purposeful.

