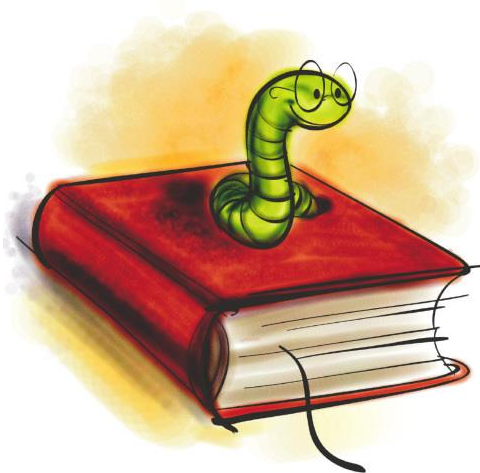


# Moulton Primary School

## When Your Child is an Independent Reader



This guide is designed to help parents support children through the **independent reading stage**. This is when they will have mastered the 'mechanics' of reading and are now ready to carry on developing their skills through reading for pleasure.

At this important stage children need to read 'real' books which develop their language skills and develop a passion for reading - a proven factor in helping children to achieve well throughout their lives.

The best way to achieve this is to give them access to a broad range of literature that interests them and this is why they will now choose their reading books from the school library.

Children will be taught in school how to **pick the right book** and we hope that parents will support this them by hearing the read, talking about the story to check their understanding and by reading stories to them at home.

# I-Pick the Right Book

## PURPOSE

What is the purpose for reading? Is it totally a free choice or is there some other reason?

- *Are they reading for pleasure?*
- *Are they trying to learn something?*
- *Is the book going to be read silently or out loud?*



**I** can choose a book

**P** Why do I want to read it?

Purpose

**I** Does this book interest me?

Interest

**C** Do I understand the text?

Comprehend

**K** Do I know most of the words?

Know

## INTEREST

When choosing a book, it should be something of *interest*. There are some wonderful children's authors now and they cover a wide range of topics.

Even if children have a short amount of time to choose books, they can determine interest by:

- *Looking at the front cover*
- *Flipping through the pages to glance at photos or illustrations*
- *Reading the back cover*
- *Reading the chapter titles*

Interest connections are useful too. If a child is interested in cars, they should consider more than stories about cars; books about racetracks, car construction, the history of racing, racing drivers or car design.

## Comprehend

Children need to be able to understand what they read. Is the book appropriate for their level or ability?

Children are often more aware of their reading 'level' than we might think. They may compare themselves unfavourably to their friends and choose books that are too hard for them but which 'look right'. This must be handled sensitively; children should be gently reminded how important it is that they can read and understand their chosen book. They need to understand that the best way to improve and get onto harder books is to read more!

Children can easily assess if a book is appropriate for them by opening the book and reading a page - the book is appropriate for them if they are able to understand what they read. Children can check this by asking themselves:

- Did I understand what I just read?
- Do I remember what I read?
- Was I able to read most of the words?

## KNOW THE WORDS

Readers should be able to read and understand the majority of the words on the page.

They can use the **Five Finger Rule** - this is a general guide to how many words a reader should be able to read on each page



## EASY

- \* you can read the words fluently (smooth and with an interesting voice)
- \*there often are not a lot of words on a page
- \*you know how to say all the words
- \*there are not a lot of pages in the book
- \*you have a lot of schema for the subject
- \*sometimes the book has a larger font
- \*you totally understand the story
- \*your reading rate may be quicker
- \*your thinking comes easy as you read the words

## CHALLENGING

- \*many of the words are too hard to decode (failed a five finger test)
- \*you don't know what the tricky words MEAN
- \*your reading becomes choppy more than it is fluent
- \*you don't have any prior knowledge the subject
- \*there are often a lot of words on the page
- \*often the font is small
- \*you lose focus as you are reading
- \*you are not enjoying the book because you have to do too much word work
- \*your thinking is confused
- \*your reading rate slows way down

## JUST RIGHT

- \*you can read most of the words
- \*you can understand what you are reading
- \*you enjoy the book
- \*you may have some schema for the subject
- \*you can read the book with smooth fluency but there are some choppy places
- \*your reading rate is just right- not too slow and not too fast
- \*you can figure out the tricky words and still get the meaning of the story

## Remember.....

- I** pick a book
- P** purpose
- I** interest
- C** comprehension
- K** Know the Words

