

Year 1 reading development check-in

Are you wondering how your Year 1 child is going in learning to read in English?

In Year 1, students are continuing to learn how to sound out increasingly complex words, read simple books and write short sentences. They are learning about phonics, which helps them understand how to match letters and sounds together to read words.

Here are some of the skills that you might notice your child using from around the middle of the school year.

- Put together sounds to read short words and some longer words, like 'milk', 'smash' or 'cobweb', using the letters and sounds they know.
- Say the right sound when two letters work together to make one sound, like **ch** in 'chin', **ck** in stick or **th** in 'thing'.
- Know that each vowel (a, e, i, o and u) can make a short and a long sound and usually choose the right sound when reading words. For example, the letter 'a' says its short sound in 'cap' and its long sound in 'cape'.
- Fix their mistakes when reading aloud from books with letters and sounds that they know.
- Read with some expression in their voice.
- Know to pause at full stops.
- Retell the main events from a story that they have listened to or read.
- Remember facts from an information (non-fiction) text that they have listened to or read.
- Make thoughtful guesses about what might happen next in a story.
- In books about a familiar topic, talk about what the story is about and explain why the characters do certain things.

This list isn't a test, or a task to work through item by item with your child. Instead, when you are listening to your child read at home, notice when your child is using these skills, and praise them for their effort and improvement.

If you have any questions or concerns about how your child is going with their reading, make a time to talk to your child's teacher.

Remember that one of the best ways to support your child's reading is to read with them and to them in a relaxed and positive way. Talk about what you're reading together and answer their questions. When you show that you enjoy reading, your child learns that reading can be a fun part of everyday life.



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