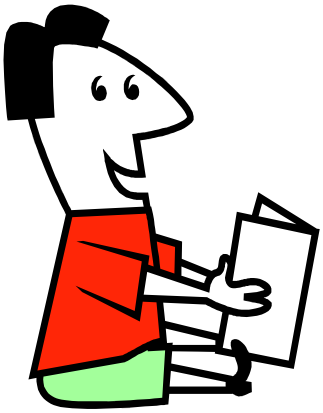
Ysgol Y Faenol Bodelwyddan



Learning to Read

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Learning to read with confidence, fluency and understanding is vital if children are going to get maximum benefit from their education and fulfil their potential.



One of the ways in which you can help your child to learn to read is by reading together and sharing a love of books. Even when your child can read you should still read to them as often as possible. Sharing books with a grown up will teach them new words and will encourage them to become better readers.

Learning to read can be fun

- Encourage your child to choose a book for you to read to them.

- Children often want to listen to the same story again and again. This is fine as it builds confidence and familiarity with words and reinforces the message that books are fun.

- Try to share books together each day. A few minutes of special, quiet time with a book every day is much more valuable than half an hour a week.

- Try to find and share books about something you know your child is interested in.

You can also help your child by doing the following:

- Singing together
- Reciting nursery rhymes and poems
- Naming objects
- Playing 'I Spy'
- Looking at words on signs, posters, newspapers, groceries, shop windows etc.
- Reading recipes and instructions together
- Letting your child see you reading
- Listening to pre-recorded tapes of favourite books
- Joining the local library – **No child is too young to join the library. It is free and borrowing books is free.** The librarians will be able to give advice about suitable books to choose. There are often book and story telling sessions taking place in the library during the school holidays.

Reading Skills

First Steps

Most children learn to read between the ages of four and seven. At Ysgol y Faenol your child will be taught to read using a phonic approach. This means that he/she will be made aware that words are made up of sounds. For each sound the children learn an action. This helps them to remember and makes it an enjoyable learning experience.

You can support your child by helping him/her to remember the initial letter sounds.

Once the children know the letter sounds they will be taught to blend them. In other words they will learn to run the letter sounds together in such a way that they make a word. It is a technique that needs to be taught. It is easier if the child is encouraged to say the first sound loudly and to quickly whisper the rest (for example **d**-o-g). Some children are quickly able to blend the sounds, but others take longer. It comes to them all with practice and patience.

Some words, however, cannot be sounded out and need to be learnt and recognised on sight. These are common irregular words such as:

I go come you was are the we me like
going she they my he all said other another
ball be because brother call came could do
have here home house laugh love made make
many more name old once one our over people
saw school should sister so some take their

there these time two very want were what where who would your

The Next Step

When the children are able to sound out three letter words and can recognise key irregular words they will be taught the skills to read longer words. This involves learning the blends and sounds that are represented by:

- Two or more consonants
  e.g. bl, cl, br, cr, str, spr, nd, ld, mp
- Two vowels
  e.g. ai, ee, oi
  - A vowel and a consonant
  e.g. er, ar, ow

You can support your child's reading by helping him/her identify the sounds within words and by encouraging him/her to blend the sounds together. For example:

bee	(2 sounds)	b-ee
teacher	(4 sounds)	t-ea-ch-er
fork	(3 sounds)	f-or-k
train	(4 sounds)	t-r-ai-n

With practise and support children gradually become fluent at blending sounds and are able to use these skills to help them read long and unfamiliar words.

Reading in school

As well as being taught to read using the structured phonic approach outlined above your child will have daily opportunities to develop their reading skills in school. This will involve varied reading experiences including:

- Shared reading
  The teacher will demonstrate reading strategies using a shared text. The class then reads together and discusses ideas.

- Guided group reading
  Guided group reading is used every week at Ysgol Y Faenol to teach the children to read. In a guided reading lesson a group of up to six children each have a copy of the same book. The lesson consists of teacher-led preparation and independent reading. When the children have finished their independent reading the group revisit the book to explore the book more fully and to carry out specific activities.

- Quiet reading by themselves

- Reading with a partner

- Reading as part of the literacy lesson or in other subjects

'Reading' Books

On a Friday your child will bring home a reading book home from school in order for you to spend some quality time reading together.

Look through the book and talk about it with your child. Encourage him/her to predict what the story is about in their own words.

Show your child the way words go from left to right on the page by underlining them with your finger.

If your child can't read a word don't keep them guessing for a long time. If it is a word that can be sounded out help them to sound it out slowly and then say it faster together.

Try to respond to your child's needs and let them read at their own pace.

Praise your child when they work out a new word for themselves or when they go back and put right a word that they got wrong the first time.

Help your child to see that they may already know the biggest part of some words by breaking the word down:
play - ing
walk - ed

If they get stuck, encourage them to use all the available information and all their skills to make a guess. They should look at the pictures, think about the sounds of the letters and remember what has already happened in the story.



Above all reading should be a positive and enjoyable experience.