

# Literacy Learning at Home









## Listening and Talking

Listening and Talking skills are necessary for young people to become effective contributors. They need to be able to express themselves clearly and confidently, respond appropriately to the ideas of others, and participate in turn-taking. The most important thing you can do is regularly talk to your child.



## Watching Film/TV/Videos or Listening to Radio/Podcasts

When watching or listening to something with your child, there are a few things you can do to help engage listening skills. There are questions you can ask (but it doesn't need to feel like a quiz!) as a part of a conversation.





## Watching Film/TV/Videos or Listening to Radio/Podcasts

You can ask your child:

- ❑ Why are you watching this? What do you like about it?
- ❑ Why do you think this was created?
- ❑ Who do you think this was made for?
- ❑ What is the main idea?
- ❑ Ask about specific elements of what you are listening to:
  - o Why do you think that character...
  - o What new information have you learned about...



## Conversations and Discussions



Students need to be able to participate in group discussions in order to be effective contributors. You can help your child develop listening and talking skills by modelling how to contribute to a conversation/discussion.



## Conversations and Discussions

Encourage your child to contribute to family chats and discussions by asking their thoughts and opinions.

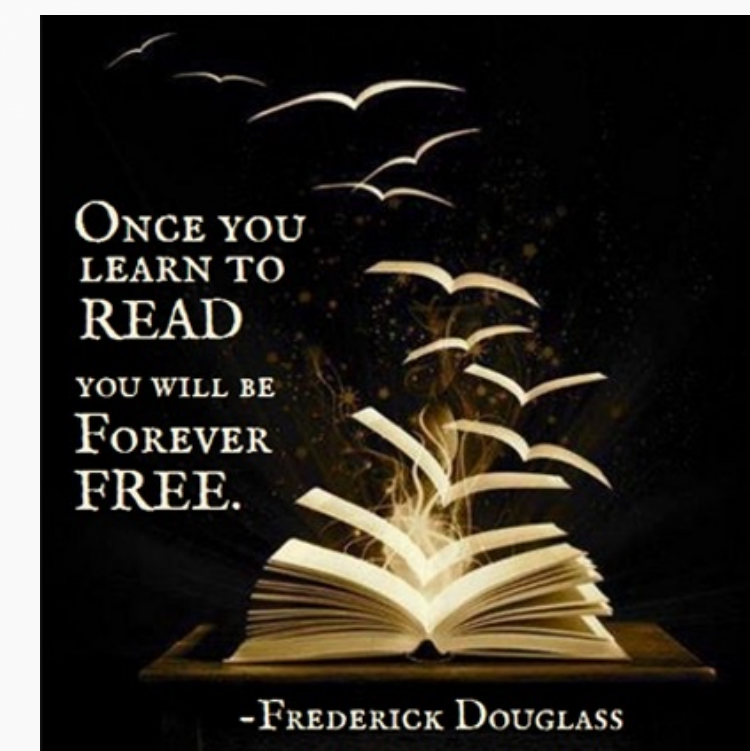
Model appropriate responses in discussions:

- o Agreement phrases  
(e.g. "I agree because..." "That makes sense to me because...")
- o Disagreement phrases  
(e.g. "I disagree with you because..." "In contrast, I think...")
- o Questions  
(e.g. "Why do you think...").



## Reading

Strong reading skills can help student access learning in school as well as in the world around them. The best thing you can do for your child is to have them reading regularly.





## Access to Books

There are plenty of free ways to access books:

### 1) Our school library

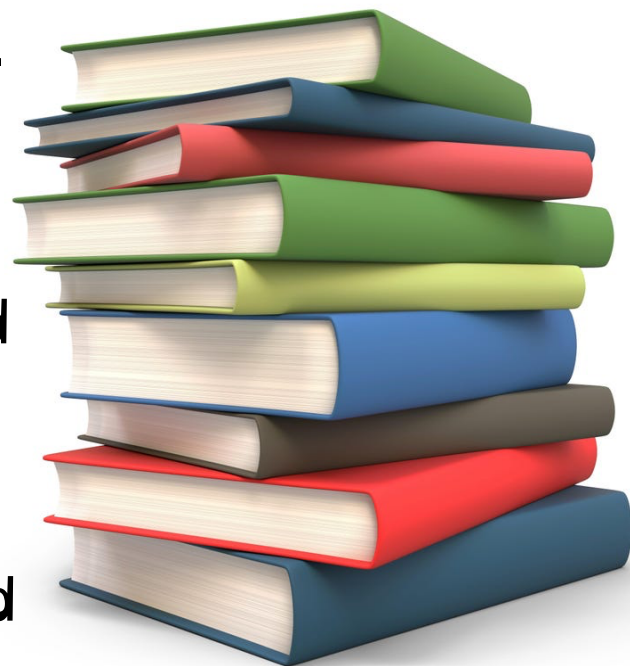
- Our school librarian (Ms Kindness) can help your child find a book! They can visit the library before/after school and at interval and lunch.

### 2) The public library catalogue on the iPad

- Students can go to <https://glasgow.overdrive.com/>
- Ms Kindness or your child's English teacher can give them their username and password.

### 3) Your local library

- You can find your local library here <https://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/venue-finder?channel=Libraries>



## Reciprocal Reading

Another way to help your child develop strong reading skills is to have them use the four skills of reciprocal reading. You can have conversation with your child to help prompt them to make predictions, clarify confusing bits, summarise what they have read, and create questions.





## Reciprocal Reading

You can help your child use the prompts below when reading:

### 1) Predicting

- What is the title of the text? Based on the title, what do you think the text is about? What do you already know about the topic?
- Look at the structure of the text. Are there pictures? Does the text structure look familiar (i.e. a recipe, instructions)?
- What is the purpose of reading this passage? Why do you think your teacher has assigned this?

### 2) Clarifying

- Can you use context clues to help you understand any unfamiliar words?
- Are there any unclear sections of the passage? Re-read key points (including topic sentences) to help focus on the main ideas.

## Reciprocal Reading

You can help your child use the prompts below when reading:

### 3) Summarising

- Write a short summary in your own words of what you've read. This will help to consolidate the information you've learned and store it.
- Make sure your summary orders the information in a logical way.

### 4) Questioning

- Create challenging questions about what you have read.
- Do you have any questions for the author of the text?



## Writing

Writing allows students to communicate their ideas in school and in life.

You can help your child to develop their writing skills in three stages: before writing, during writing, after writing.



## Before Writing

You can support your child to improve their writing by making sure they are prepared before beginning to write. Ask them the questions below:

- What is the purpose of writing?
  - o Why are they writing? Is it to communicate information? Be persuasive?
  
- Who is the audience for the writing?
  - o Is it for the teacher? For their classmates? Someone else? They may need to be more or less formal depending on who it is for.
  
- Are they writing in a specific genre or form (e.g report, diary entry, short story)?
  - o They should make sure their writing fits the proper form.
  
- Have they planned their writing?
  - o Do they know what they are going to write in each section?



## During Writing

Encourage your child to actively craft their writing:

☐ They should write in full sentences with appropriate punctuation.

☐ They should aim to elevate their language (use the best words) and be precise.

☐ Students should use appropriate sequencing words and directional phrases if it fits the purpose of their writing.  
o e.g. Firstly, in addition, furthermore, in contrast etc.



## After Writing

Your child should be encouraged to review and edit their work once they have completed the initial writing phase:

☐ Students should review the success criteria or the task (as well as the purpose) and examine how successful they have been.

☐ Students should be encouraged to review their work for literacy errors (spelling, grammar, punctuation etc.).

