

Literacy @ TAPS



We are excited to share with you that as part of our Strategic Direction at TAPS our staff have been embarking on a learning journey to learn about Structured Literacy. Teachers have spent a day in the holidays learning about the Science of Reading led by our newly appointed Literacy Specialist, Kylie McKay. They are studying how the brain learns to read and spell. This means that as we learn and deepen our knowledge literacy practices at TAPS may begin to look different from how we have taught in the past. This also will impact what homework may look like.

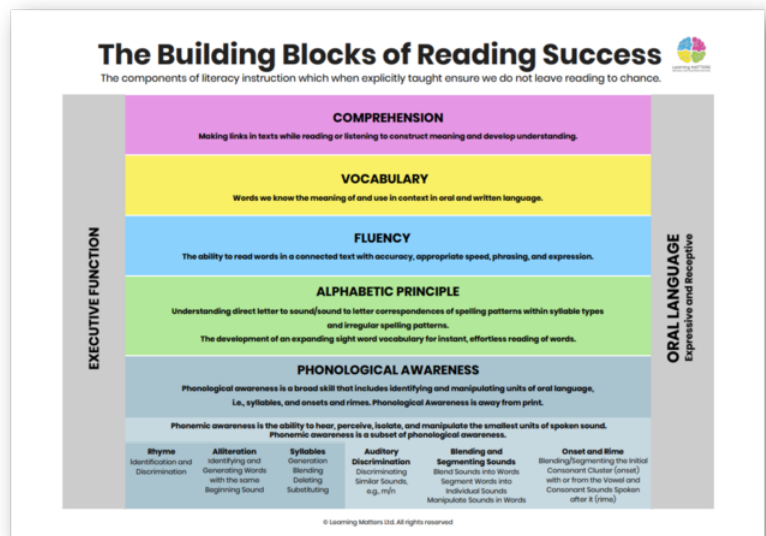
Your child may not bring home a book to read straight away.

At TAPS we are placing a greater emphasis on the foundations of learning to read. Teaching, learning and homework may focus on:

- Phonological Awareness (an awareness that words can be broken up into speech sounds)
- Alphabetic Principle (connecting speech sounds with letters) in
 - Words
 - Sentences
 - Connected Text in books

This means your child may bring home word games to play before they bring home a book to read.

Your child may be sent home fluency books. These are books that they should be able to read by themselves as they are texts at an independent level. However, they need to practise reading these books so that they become fluent readers. You can support your child with their reading by continuing to read books to them and by supporting your child to become a fluent reader.



What is Fluency?

Fluency is the ability to read with speed, accuracy, and with proper expression (reading should sound like we talk). Fluency is important because when reading words happens automatically, students can focus on what words mean and make sense of what they are reading.

When reading sounds robotic and choppy, students are using all of their cognitive skills to crack the code of the words, rather than concentrate on reading comprehension. When reading is tricky, this affects a student's motivation to read more.

Your support is appreciated in developing the love of reading in your child.

How can you help?



Reading to your child:

Reading books aloud stimulates the imagination and expands children's understanding of the world. This is why reading to your child regularly is very much encouraged. Head to the local library and they will support you to find age-appropriate picture books to read to your children. Reading to children helps them to develop their language and listening abilities. Don't forget to talk about the pictures as well as the meaning of the words that you read.

Reading a book with your child:

If your child brings home a fluency book to read, you can encourage them to practise reading the book to themselves first. Then, listen to your child read. Consider if they're reading with a good speed and expression, it should sound like we talk.

If you observe your child struggling, sit beside them and read it fluently together. Tomorrow you can give your child another go to read it fluently and independently.



It is likely that your child will bring home the same text for a number of days. This is to support the development of fluency.

If your child likes a sense of competition, you could also try a 1-minute reading challenge. Put the timer on your phone or watch and see how many words or pages they can read in one minute. Do this two to three times a day and monitor progress over the week. Celebrate their success:

"Wow, that's 3 more words than yesterday!"

"That's the same speed yet this time, I heard you use lots more expression."

We are looking forward to supporting your children to become great readers and writers in 2021 and beyond.

This is our Learning Journey, together. Thank you for your continued support.



Watch out for the video explaining this further, coming your way soon!