

Reading Skills

- Reading skills are used in almost every lesson
- Taught explicitly in daily 30 minute 'Guided Reading' sessions
- Each group will complete a variety of activities every week such as reading independently, listening to stories on CD or tapes and topic book research.
- Each group also has a day per week to read with the teacher and the TA – in these guided reading sessions. The adult will teach the full range of reading skills including:
 - decoding - using phonic skills or using other strategies such as picture clues or reading on and working out a word from the context
 - comprehension – through questioning about the text and asking the children to retell the story
 - Analysis of the author's writing – looking at punctuation, word choice etc

Things to remember when reading at home with your child

- Short and regular works best
- Use a variety of approaches to decoding – phonics (sounding out), picture clues, reading on and working out from context etc
- Have a 50/50 balance between reading and book talk
- Ask lots of questions as you go, or at the end. For instance:
 - What happened?
 - Why do you think she did that?
 - Why has the author used an exclamation mark here?
- More confident readers may, by now, be reading independently, but it's still a good idea to ask them questions about what they've read or to get them to retell the story
- If the text is hard, you could share the reading

What questions could you ask your child after reading this page from 'It's Too Frightening For Me' (Shirley Hughes)?



Jim and Arthur sat for a long time staring up at the empty window. Then they slid down on to the footpath and sat with their backs against the wall.

'Arthur,' said Jim seriously, 'that wasn't a spook. It was a girl. This is a real mystery.'

'Yes,' said Arthur. *'But it's too frightening for me!'*

Jim was frightened too, but he didn't let on to Arthur.

Jim's and Arthur's Mum had once read them a story about a girl who was shut up in a tower by a wicked witch. They thought a great deal about the face at the window of Hardlock House.

