A child's room with a light green wall. On the wall are three framed pictures. To the right is a wooden door. In the foreground, there is a wooden bookshelf filled with books. A white book rack is on the right, holding several children's books. A blue shaggy rug is on the floor. A white speech bubble is overlaid on the left side of the image.

~ Let's Chat ~ The DfE Reading Framework

First up ~ What does the
research say?



THE READING FRAMEWORK

Over the Summer I'll be breaking down some of the elements of the revised DfE Reading Framework to see what it means for us as educators, parents and classroom practitioners.

The document starts with snippets of research from the last 40 years that shows the importance of reading.



VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT AND TALK

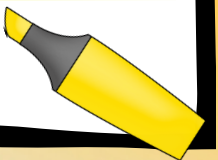
*High quality
parental
talk in the
Early Years
expands
vocabulary
and
comprehension*

Parents who engage their children in books prepare them to become committed and enthusiastic readers: they can transform their attitudes to reading. [DfE 2021]

Book-related talk introduces children to language that they might not hear in ordinary conversation, especially the vocabulary of the book itself. [Logan, J. and others (June 2019)]

Here's how many words kids would have heard by the time they were 5 years old: Never read to, 4,662 words; 1-2 times per week, 63,570 words; 3-5 times per week, 169,520 words; daily, 296,660 words; and five books a day, 1,483,300 words.

[Science Daily (2019)]



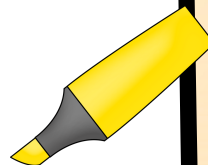
HOW WE CAN SUPPORT VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT?

- Read to the class at every opportunity
- Explicitly teach tier 2 and 3 vocabulary before tackling a text or task
- Encourage word collecting in the classroom - make it a sport!
- Make book talk a regular occurrence and model the skills

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS OF READING FOR PLEASURE

Extensive international research shows that being a frequent reader is associated with a range of academic, social and emotional benefits..

Far more than pleasure is at stake.



Research cited evidences reading being linked to:

1. Higher academic performance, even in maths.
2. More knowledge about the world and increased understanding of technical or subject specific vocabulary
3. Readers report better wellbeing and mental health.
4. Readers show more empathy and become more socially conscious citizens

Reading for pleasure is THE biggest indicator of a child's future success, more so than their family's socio-economic status.
OECD 2010

This phrase stuck out for me.

NURTURING A DESIRE TO READ

- Provide as many opportunities as possible to engage children with reading ~ make reading and reading spaces enticing
- Take an interest in what children are reading
- Make reading recommendations
- Provide a range of reading material across genres
- Make reading a social activity - allow chatter and book talk

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS

Being able to read is crucial to accessing information and increasing the range of employment options.

EEF in 2019 cites the cost of low levels of literacy to the UK economy to be around £20 billion per annum.

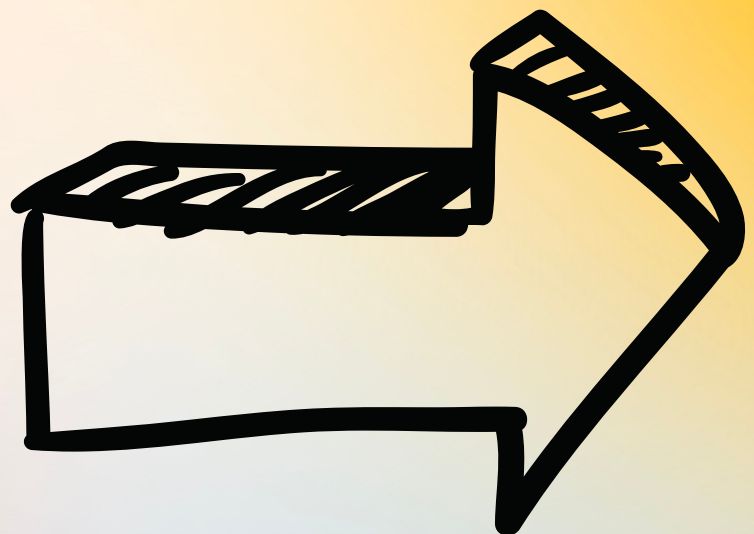
Readers are more engaged politically, and more likely to become involved in their communities. [Cherry G and Vignoles A (2020)]



THE MATTHEW EFFECT


'Children who are good at reading do more of it: they learn more, about all sorts of things, and their expanded vocabulary, gained from their reading, increases their ease of access to more reading. Conversely, those for whom reading is difficult fall behind, not just in their reading but in all subjects and a vicious circle develops.' [DfE]

So what can we do?




COMBATTING THE 'MATTHEW EFFECT'

- Make it easy/compulsory to access a wide range of books
- Plan opportunities for reading within the school day for purpose, practice and pleasure
- Help children build pace and fluency: Practice, practice, practice!
- Make personal recommendations to support children's book choices e.g. a personal basket with high interest books that are at a level they can read fluently.



I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE SO
IMPORTANT

- You set the tone in your space.
- Your love of literature will shine through and spread
- Your recommendations will be valued and create readers
- Your conversations will start children wondering, questioning, analysing, imagining
- Keep going even if there's tumbleweed to start with!

A child's reading nook is shown, featuring a white shelf with books like 'ANTHONY BROWNE', 'ANITA', 'OMAR', 'DAVE', 'SPIDERMAN', and 'YOU CHOOSE YOUR ADVENTURE'. A green vine plant hangs from the shelf. Below, a wicker basket holds a teddy bear. A large blue beanbag chair sits on a patterned rug. To the right, a wooden table holds a 'Listening Station' sign and a green device.

I'd love to know your thoughts and ideas on this research.

DROP A COMMENT BELOW

