

Partners in Learning

Video Suite



Reading difficulties – parents, carers and home tutors

What is discussed in this video?

A Speech Language Pathologist discusses reading difficulties and how parents, carers and home tutors can support all students with reading difficulties.

What are the key messages that can be used in newsletters to inform the school community?

- Reading comprehension, the ability to gain meaning from text, involves two primary processes – decoding or reading printed text and understanding the language of the text.
- Becoming a reader is not effortless, it is a complex human behaviour.
- There are strong links between early spoken language skills and learning to read.
- The pre-school years are a critical time for language and literacy learning and development.
- Important building blocks to reading and understanding text are:
 - phonological awareness – a child’s awareness of different sounds in their language; this includes an awareness of rhyme and how sounds link together to make words;
 - print knowledge – understanding the difference between print in pictures, that print carries meaning, how to hold a book, turn pages in a book, and read from left to right;
 - vocabulary – this includes understanding and using words of different types such as naming (noun), action (verb) and describing words (adjectives); and having a wide range of words to express their thoughts, feelings and ideas; and
 - narrative – a child’s ability to tell a story and describe real or fictional events from the past, the present or the future.
- Children can be supported by the creation of language and literacy rich environments.
- Concerns regarding a child’s speech or language development or progress in reading, should be discussed with the child’s classroom teacher.

