



Aim:

To encourage parents to read with their children in order to promote reading for enjoyment in order to improve outcomes* for WDPS children.

*Reading, literacy and life outcomes

Rationale:

There is gathering evidence around the importance of the parent and child regularly reading together - especially but not exclusively with younger children. This may be reading to the child, the child reading to the parent or sharing a book together. Research shows us that parents or carers reading with children has a positive impact on:

- **comprehension**
- **memory**
- **fluency in reading**
- **vocabulary**
- **concentration**
- **literacy skills**

Position statement:

A survey carried out in November 2017 revealed:

41% never read to an adult

47% are never read to by an adult

What is 'Read Together'?

Read Together is our new initiative to encourage parents and children to read and enjoy books together. Reading together could mean:

- the child reading to the adult
- the adult reading to the child/children
- taking it in turns - as long as the experience is shared.

When children have read with a parent or carer a set number of times, they will receive a write band, up to 3 over the course of the year.

Research Links

Here are just few links to pages (from across the globe) that describe the positive effects of Reading Together:

<http://journals.sagepub.com/eprint/Wm6JKfkqU9FfTNhgRQ7z/full>

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/documents/about/research/readtoyoungchild.pdf>

<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED496346.pdf>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/08/05/health/parents-reading-to-kids-study/index.html>

<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubs/documents/readingk-3.pdf>

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/05/170504083146.htm>

Success

Success will be measured by a decrease in the % of children who, when surveyed, say they never read to an adult and are never read to.

We will also look for enthusiasm around the initiative and, of course, improvements in outcomes in reading generally, although it will be hard to pin any improvements down to a specific initiative - we are always adapting to best meet our children's needs.

We will review the initiative in the summer term - the questionnaire will be retaken again at the end of the summer.