



Oxford
Reading
Tree

A guide for parents

At home with Oxford Reading Tree



Learning to read with Oxford Reading Tree

Reading is one of the most important skills your child will learn in the early years at school. S/he will be learning to read with Oxford Reading Tree, a well-established and popular reading scheme which is highly successful at teaching children to read. This Guide for Parents will explain:

- how Oxford Reading Tree works
- how children progress through the scheme
- how you can support reading at home



Stories children love

Oxford Reading Tree makes learning to read fun, with stories that children want to read for themselves. They readily identify with the characters of Biff, Chip, Kipper, and their dog, Floppy. At the early stages, the stories focus on situations

children recognize from their own experiences, such as having a wobbly tooth, losing a favourite toy, and making a mess.

A structured approach

The stories are carefully written using simple, natural-sounding language that children can understand. 'Key' words are repeated throughout the storybooks so that children gradually increase the number of words they can recognize and read.

Making progress

Oxford Reading Tree has twelve stages – shown on the chart opposite. Your child will start at Stage 1, and progress up the tree to Stage 11. At certain points s/he may read stories which are not on the 'trunk'. Sparrows provide extra reading practice at Stages 3 and 4. This Guide covers Stages 1 to 5, the first year of reading.

After Stage 5, the Oxford Reading Tree stories continue until the end of Key Stage 1 (Primary 1–3 in Scotland). As at Stages 1 to 5, there are stories which are not on the 'trunk'. These include Robins which provide extra reading practice, and Jackdaws and TreeTops All Stars which provide challenging reads for fluent readers.



Resources Chart

Non-fiction

Fiction





Taking first steps towards reading

Try to find a quiet ten minutes every day to look at a book with your child. The more you read and talk about stories, the more confident your child will feel about handling books. Gradually, s/he will make the connection between the story you read aloud and the printed word. Children often have favourite stories they want to hear again and again.

Having heard a story several times, they will 'read' it themselves, memorising the words. This is an important step towards becoming a reader, and deserves your praise and encouragement.

Meeting the characters – Biff, Chip, and Kipper

When your child starts school, the teacher will use the Flopover Book, a large picture book, to introduce the Oxford Reading Tree characters. The characters' names are the first words your child will learn to read, and these will be practised in school using word games. Using the Flopover Book stimulates class discussion, and helps develop the speaking and listening skills so important to your child's development.



Stage 1 Kipper Storybooks and Biff and Chip Storybooks

The first twelve storybooks at Stage 1 use pictures without any words to tell the story. The pictures are full of detail and humour, making them fun for the child to use. These picture storybooks teach children important skills: to talk about the pictures to create their own story and to make the connection between the picture and the story – invaluable at later stages to help children read an unfamiliar word.



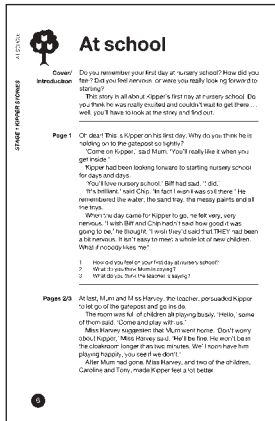
Stage 1 Kipper Storybook

Introducing the alphabet

The teacher will introduce your child to the alphabet, using a frieze such as the Oxford Reading Tree Alphabet frieze. Card Games are also used to teach children to make the connection between letters and sounds. Written letters may be practised using workbooks. The alphabet frieze is also available for use at home.

Reading at home

Each Stage 1 Storybook is accompanied by an Extended Story – a written version of the picture storybook for you or the teacher to read. When your child brings home a picture storybook and Extended Story, read the Extended Story to your child while s/he listens and follows in the picture storybook. Questions are included with the Extended Story which you should use to encourage your child to talk about the story and to look more closely at the illustrations.



Extended Story

Oxford Reading Tree

Take-Home Card

Welcome to Oxford Reading Tree!

On this card there are some ideas for helping your child to read the story brought home today.

Don't feel you have to use all the ideas. Find a nice comfortable place together, even if it's only for five minutes. Reading should be fun, so give lots of praise!

2 The New House

Stage 4 Stories

What is the story about?

This is the story of what happened on the day the family moved to the new house. Everything is packed in boxes, driven to the new house and unpacked again. Everyone agrees that it is hard work!

Talk together

If you have ever moved house, talk about what happened. Imagine how much work it is to pack up every cup and saucer, every book, toy, shoe and coat. Imagine how difficult it is to move large objects like tables and beds.

Read the story

- Look through the pictures to see what happens.
- Read the story together.
- On page 1, work out 'van' using the letter sounds: v-a-n.
- On page 4, show your child how to work out 'things: th-i-n-g-s.
- On page 4, show your child how to work out 'sure: s-u-r-e.
- As you read, notice any words that your child is not sure of. Go back to these words at the end of the story and read them again.
- Some words need to be recognized on sight as some sounds in the word are misleading, e.g. 'they', 'what', 'said'. Practise reading these words by finding them several times in the story.
- Ask your child to read the story to you.

Every core Storybook from Stages 1 to 9 is accompanied by a Take-Home Card which gives hints and tips on getting the most out of reading the story at home. It also gives ideas for games and activities based around the story, to help reinforce what your child has just learnt.

Take-Home Card

Stage 1 First Words Stories

First Words are six stories using the Stage 1 key words and characters' names. There are a few simple words to each pagespread, which are closely linked to the illustrations. The books are wonderfully humorous and provide a satisfying ending.

Stage 1+ Stories

Stage 1+ stories provide a bridge between First Words at Stage 1 and the Stage 2 stories.

Twelve Patterned Stories feature, as their name implies, very patterned language, with lots of repetition of the National Literacy Strategy Reception high frequency words. The simple sentences they use are closely linked to the illustrations. Your child may be reading some or all of these stories for extra reading practice.

Six First Phonics stories are rhyming stories which promote phonological awareness (learning that words are made up of different sounds, and can often be broken down in to their different parts and 'sounded out'). They also feature the National Literacy Strategy Reception high frequency words.

Also at Stage 1+ are six First Sentences and six More First Sentences stories which feature the National Literacy Strategy Reception key words too. Each one is a lively and imaginative complete story and contains full sentences.

Stage 2 Storybooks

Stage 2 Storybooks have pictures and no more than one line of text per illustration.

The Stage starts with twelve more Patterned Stories which repeat high frequency words using very patterned language. Your child may be reading some or all of these stories to give them extra reading practice.

There are also six more First Phonics stories, which practise the 'sounding out' skills learned in Stage 1+.

The remaining eighteen stories at Stage 2 can be read in any order, and feature the characters met at Stage 1 in situations children will find familiar. The stories develop the ability to predict the storyline, to recognize key words, and to relate pictures and text.

Reading together at home

Each story at Stages 1, 2, 3, and 4 (except Stage 1+ First Phonics, First Sentences, and More First Sentences and Stage 2 First Phonics) is accompanied by an Extended Story. You or the teacher should read this story to your child before s/he attempts to read the storybook on his/her own. Ask your child the questions that follow the Extended Story – the answers will closely mirror the text that appears in the storybook. S/he will use this information when reading the story for the first time on his/her own. When listening to this first reading, give as much praise and encouragement as you can. If something is nearly right, suggest reading the sentence



together, rather than saying 'no, that's wrong'. The teacher will be using other activities at school to help him/her read the sentences correctly. The pictures are often humorous, and are fun to discuss together, as they give the story more depth. They also help support your child's reading, and confirm to him/her that s/he's correctly understood the words. Remember too that the Take-Home Cards will give lots of other ideas for reading the story together.

Sparrows for extra practice

It is important that your child progresses at his/her own pace, and that s/he has enough reading practice at each Stage before moving on to the next. At Stages 3 and 4 Sparrows provide extra practice, helping children to progress smoothly to Stage 5.

Extending reading skills

Each Stage builds on and extends the reading skills and words learnt from the previous Stage. The amount of text is gradually increased, more pages are added, and new characters are introduced.

Magic Key adventures

At Stage 5 some of the stories move away from familiar situations into the realms of fantasy with the 'magic key' stories. Biff, Chip, and Kipper find a key which has the power to whisk them away to many exciting adventures. Children love these stories, often using them as the starting point for their own storywriting.

Oxford Reading Tree Fireflies – the non-fiction strand of Oxford Reading Tree

At each Stage from Stages 1+ to 10 are six Fireflies – non-fiction reading books. The progression of Fireflies work in exactly the same way as that of the Storybooks – each Stage builds on and extends the non-fiction reading skills learnt at the previous Stage. Fireflies books are designed to capture your child's imagination and encourage their enthusiasm to 'find out'. A Take-Home Card accompanies each book, to give you hints and tips on getting the most out of reading non-fiction books with your child.

Encouraging progress at home ...

Reading at home is very important, especially at these early stages. Encourage your child's interest in reading by getting into the habit of reading regularly with him/her every day.

... and at school

At every Stage the teacher will use the wide range of Oxford Reading Tree resources to support your child's reading development. Word games, language activities, workbooks, talking stories on CD-ROM, Oxford Reading Tree Online, as well as Storytapes mean that your



child is practising reading in many different and enjoyable ways. Poetry and playscripts will be introduced so that s/he learns to read different types of writing. By the time s/he completes Oxford Reading Tree, your child should be a confident and independent reader.

Oxford Reading Tree on TV!

Kipper, Biff, Chip, and Floppy the dog feature in an exciting series of specially commissioned programmes.

Developed by HIT Entertainment PLC, the BBC, and Oxford University Press, this

beautifully animated series is shown on BBC2. Tie-in workbooks and toys are available from Marks and Spencer. A magazine is also available.



If you need further help ...

In the first instance, contact your child's school. Most schools hold an open evening for parents, shortly before the child starts school. This gives you the opportunity to find out about the school's reading policy, and the support the school would like you to provide at home. Once your child has started school, the class teacher will be able to answer any questions about reading support at home.

...From Oxford University Press

If you are interested in finding out more, please call the Oxford Primary Care-line on 01865 353881 to request a copy of our latest catalogue.

For up-to-date information, as well as games and activities, why not visit our website:

www.OxfordPrimary.com

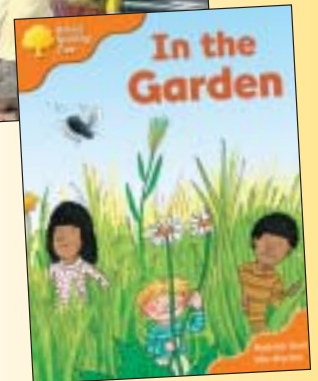
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Books to buy for home

You may want to have some of the Oxford Reading Tree materials at home to support your child's reading development. Particularly useful are:

- Storybooks from Stages 1 to 9
- My Oxford Reading Tree Dictionary
- Extended Stories
- Alphabet frieze

You can purchase these materials in any good bookshop, or direct from Oxford University Press.



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