

Equipping parents to support their child's reading at home



Our vision

Learn to Love to Read is a charity supporting children's literacy in schools. Working in the London borough of Wandsworth, we want all children to have frequent, positive reading experiences, and be enabled and empowered by learning to love to read.

We believe that becoming a confident reader will change a child's life and one of our goals is to give parents the motivation, skills and confidence to support their children at home.



The need

Research by Dr Reid Lyon, formerly of the National Institute of Health, shows that intensive early intervention can increase the reading ability of 90% of low-performing readers, and engaging parents and children in mutual activities that include book reading, but are not limited to it, may constitute the richest potential for supporting

children's early literacy development (Susan B. Neuman, *Guiding Young Children's Participation in Early Literacy Development*, 1997). This is backed up by the Department for Education's own findings in 2008, which show that children with interested parents pull ahead of the rest whatever their starting point and that educational failure is increased by lack of parental interest.

Our parent training

Who is it for?

Learn to Love to Read runs 90-minute interactive sessions in school to inform parents about how to support their Reception and Year 1 children's reading. It is targeted at parents whose children are in the earliest stages of reading. We can run sessions during the day or evening.



What does it cover?

The session explains how reading is taught in schools today and a parent's role in supporting this at home. We look at the synthetic phonics system with explanations of some technical terms, as well as an exercise on the correct pronunciation of letter sounds.

We explore the most effective way parents can read with their child at home, giving hints and tips on when to help and when to step back, helping with phonics, and how to build discussion around

the reading book. We also consider the importance of parents reading to their children and how literacy skills can be encouraged in daily life through games, conversation, etc.

Our sessions are interactive with practical exercises and plenty of opportunity for discussion and questions.

What parents say they found most useful about our training

“Very enjoyable from start to finish. Great way to learn doing group work style and some listening also. I found using the YouTube clip useful too and us sounding out all the sounds.”

“Very helpful to attend the session and understanding the terminology my son is using. I’ll put a lot in practice when my daughter starts Reception next year.”

“Understanding how the children learn and the sounds they learn.”

“Great to understand all the different things I can do to support my child’s learning. Really appreciate the time and care taken over everyone’s questions.”

“Learning the correct sounds for each letter. Getting a list of digraphs and trigraphs. Great games, tools and ideas to use.”

“Phonics, meaning and terminology of reading language and words used in class, sound buttons, practical games to do, tools and resources available to help.”

“The trainers were brilliant, and very professional and helpful.”

We have been running our parent training sessions since 2016 and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive with the vast majority of parents feeling that the training would enable them to offer more effective support to their children. In our last two sessions, 87% of attendees scored the training 9 out of 10 or above, with 100% scoring it 8 out of 10 or above.

What it costs



Running a standard 90-minute training session on school premises with up to 15 attendees, costs £200 for a daytime session or £250 for an evening session.

Our 30-minute quick training, specifically designed to be run during a school-parent event such as a coffee morning, costs £100.

Money raised is used to fund the charity’s ongoing work. If you are interested in running a training session for parents at your school, please contact Teresa Harris at Teresa@learn2love2read.org.uk.