

Building Lives Through Literacy

Refuge In Literacy UK supports children, young people and families involved in domestic violence refuges across the UK. Through books and literacy resources, we help families build confidence, connection and calm during times of change.

Literacy takes you out of refuge.



It feeds hearts.
It changes minds.
It grows lives.



Reading, Language and Confidence

Refuge In Literacy UK

Supporting through literacy
in domestic violence refuges.

Age Range

Reading prompt strategies
from birth to age 11 years.

For Use By

Families and refuges with
partner organisations.

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Refuge In Literacy UK

Reading Prompt Strategies



Creative activities to
learn literacy...



0 to 12 Months

Textural Reading

- Let the child touch safe books with different textures.
- Use simple words to describe how things feel.

Listening and Watching

- Sit close and let the child watch your face as you read.
- Pause for sounds, movement, smiles or eye contact.

Repetition

- Repeat favourite words, sounds or short phrases.
- Use the same book or rhyme to build familiarity.

12 Months to 2 Years

Prediction

- Pause before turning a page and ask what might happen.
- Use familiar routines to help the child predict next events.

Storytelling

- Talk about pictures, people, animals and familiar objects.
- Use short sentences to describe what is happening.

Memorising

- Repeat favourite rhymes, songs or simple phrases.
- Encourage the child to join in with familiar sounds/actions.

Finding, Selecting and Commenting

- Ask the child to find, point to or name something familiar.
- Respond positively to pointing, sounds or words.

3 Years

Prior Knowledge

- Ask what the child already knows about a picture, object or story.
- Link the book to something they have seen, done or experienced.

Summarising

- Ask the child to tell you one important thing they remember.
- Use pictures to help them retell simple events.

Comparing and Preferences

- Ask which picture, character or part they like best.
- Encourage them to give a simple reason for choice.

4 Years

Prediction

- Ask what the child thinks will happen next.
- Encourage them to use clues from the picture or story.

Summarising

- Ask the child to retell the main part of the story.
- Help them remember key people, places or events.

Selecting

- Ask the child to choose an important picture, word or event.
- Encourage them to explain why they chose it.

5 Years

Understanding Sequence

- Ask what happened first, next and last, then use pictures to place events in order.
- Ask why the order of events matters in daily routines.

Prediction

- Ask what might happen next in the story to encourage the child to give a reason for their prediction.
- Use clues from pictures, words or events and compare their prediction with what actually happens.

Prior Knowledge

- Ask what the child already knows about the topic.
- Link the story to something they have experienced.
- Ask whether they have seen something similar before.

7 Years

Developing Opinions

- Ask what the child thinks about a story, character or event.
- Encourage them to give reasons for their opinion.
- Ask whether they agree or disagree with a character's choice.
- Encourage them to use examples from the text.

Developing Sight Reading

- Encourage the child to read familiar words in books and everyday settings.
- Ask them to spot words on signs, labels or instructions.
- Help them sound out unfamiliar words.
- Build confidence by reading short sections aloud together.

10 Years

Skimming and Scanning

- Ask the child to read quickly and pick out the main points.
- Encourage them to underline or list key information.
- Ask them to find a specific answer in the text.
- Discuss why the information they selected is important.

Adapting and Using Information

- Ask the child to explain information in their own words.
- Encourage them to use facts from a text in their own writing.
- Ask them to compare information from different sources.
- Help them decide which information is most useful and why.

How to Use These Prompts

Choose One Strategy

Keep It Short

Make It Calm

Build Confidence