Home Readers

At Kapooka Public School we operate a Home Reading Program in grades Kindergarten to Year 3. Some information that may be useful to you:

- **Home readers are meant to be easy** for your child, not challenging. By the time your child brings the book home, they have usually had at least one reading of the book, (and maybe even two or three!) aimed to assist your child in finding their way through the text with success – there is no greater motivator! They can then bring them home to practise their skills with you, and show off!! Lots of praise will increase enjoyment.

- Children like to choose their own book from within each ‘level box’ but each level has books of varying degrees of difficulty.

- Very early readers often contain only captions, and serve to help children learn or further develop some of the many concepts of print.

- In the early readers we only expect the children to familiarise themselves with the little words – the ‘sight words’, which are the only way into the book for young readers. Please help with tricky words, and especially with the title and names - these are hard to ‘predict’.

- **Sounding out words is NOT a useful strategy for young readers.** They know few sounds, and putting them together is not as easy as it seems.

- Reading the same reader more than once is a wonderful way to see the same words again and again, so they become ‘sight words’. If the children have taken a book home three or four times, we tend to ask them to choose another one.

- Memorising an early reader is just another way in which children learn to work with text. Please ensure they look at the picture first, then at the text while pointing at each word in turn while they read. **PLEASE DO NOT COVER THE PICTURE!**

- **BOOK LEVELS ARE NOT A COMPETITION.** We level books to help us match your children to suitable texts, and they will move from level to level when they are ready. We have several things to consider before we decide to move a child up. It is better to err on the side of caution than to set a child up for failure by pushing too hard. Please trust our judgement. Your children are special to us too, and we want them to succeed.

- **Please note – ONLY TEACHERS CHANGE CHILDREN’S READING LEVELS.**

- **READING IS MEANT TO BE FUN** - please make your sharing time special and enjoyable.

For further handy hints please take the time to read through your child’s home reading record book – (grades Kinder to Year 3) it is full of great ideas!!.