

Parent Guide



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We are excited to share this content with you. If you are interested in finding more resources made especially for Parents, then check out these links to different areas of the **Twinkl Parents** hub.

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Supporting Learning



What is this resource and how do I use it?

Within this guide, you will find information about the Accelerated Reader Program (AR) – what it is, how it is used in schools and how you can use it to support your child at home. We have also included a list of common questions of misconceptions to help answer any questions that you may have.

What is the focus of this resource?

Accelerated Reader Program

Parent Guide

Reading

Further Ideas and Suggestions

Did you know that we have a whole section designated to **Reading Support** on our **Parents Hub**? You can also check out our full range of reading resources in our **Fiction and Stories** category or **Non-Fiction** texts. Head to our literacy areas for **year 1** or **year 2** for more reading resources for KS1.

Parents Blog



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Parents Hub



A Parent Guide to the

Accelerated Reader Program

What Is the Accelerated Reader Program?

The Accelerated Reader (AR) program is a computer-based system that schools use to help monitor and support children's independent reading. The program encourages children to read books at their own level, take quizzes and track their progress. Schools typically use AR to support reading and comprehension skills.

How does it work?

1. Choose a Book

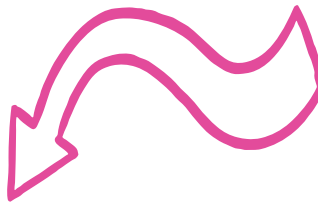
Firstly, your child selects a book within their ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) range which is based on their reading level to ensure that their book is the correct level. It should be challenging but manageable.

Teachers will help to guide your child to choose a book which they are interested in while also making sure that it matches their reading level.



2. Read the Book

Once your child has selected their book, they can read it independently at home and in school, taking as much time as they need to understand and enjoy the book.



3. Take a Quiz

Once they have finished reading the book, they will take a short quiz on the computer with multiple-choice answers to choose from. The questions will focus on the plot, main events and characters.

The pass score is usually around 80%. If they pass the test, they earn points.

The number of points awarded is based on the book's length and difficulty.



4. Track the Progress

The program will track the books that your child reads, along with their quiz scores and their points.

The information is then used by teachers to monitor children's progress and offer additional support if and when needed. This idea of the system is to help children to develop their reading skills at their own pace.



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. As far as possible, the contents of this resource are reflective of current professional research. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. The information given here is intended for general guidance purposes only and may not apply to your specific situation.



What are the benefits of the Accelerated Reader Program?

Improves Reading Skills

The program will encourage children to read regularly, helping to develop reading fluency and will help to develop children's comprehension skills.



Motivation

Children are motivated to read with fun quizzes and by earning points which can lead to rewards such as certificates or special privileges in school.



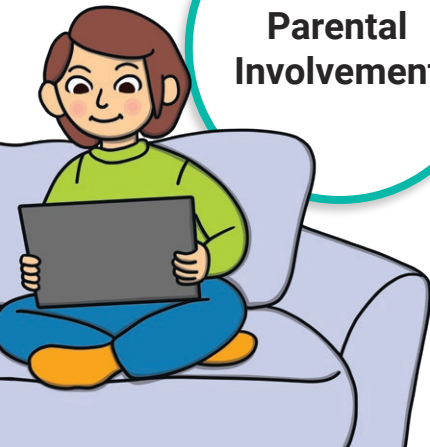
Individually Tailored

Children read books which are individually selected based on their reading ability, helping them build confidence in reading without being overwhelmed.



Parental Involvement

Parents can be involved in the process by tracking their child's progress through quiz results and points.



How can I support my child at home?

Encourage Daily Reading

Each day, you should set aside at least 20 minutes for reading to help build fluency and develop comprehension skills. The more children read, the more fluent they will become and the better they will get at understanding texts.

Help Choose the Right Books

Schools will provide a list of AR books your child can read. You can then use the AR Book Finder tool online to find suitable books for your child to read based on their reading range. You can also communicate with their teacher for suggestions.

Visit the library or a bookshop together and let your child explore different types of books to find what they like and what will motivate them to read.

Discuss Books Together

When you read with your child, encourage conversations around the book. For example, you can ask questions like 'Who is your favourite character?' or 'What is your favourite part?'. You can also encourage them to find information within the text by reflecting on the main events. You could ask questions such as 'What did the three little pigs build their houses out of?' or 'What did the wolf say to Grandma?'.

This helps improve comprehension and encourages deeper thinking about the story.

Celebrate Achievements

Remember to praise and encourage your child throughout the process. Try to remain positive and provide additional support and encouragement even when they struggle to help motivate them to try again.

Keep in Touch with Teachers

Check in with your child's teacher regularly so that you can understand how they are progressing in the AR program in school. Your child's teacher will be able to provide insights into their reading level and ZPD ranges, as well as suggest extra tips to help support your child's reading at home.

Common Concerns and Misunderstandings



What should I do if my child fails a quiz?

Don't worry if your child fails a quiz. This is not uncommon and is more likely if the book was too difficult for them. Stay positive and encourage your child to try again with a book at a slightly lower reading level. Try to ensure that they enjoy the process and the reading itself and don't feel pressure to get perfect scores every time.



What should I do if my child picks easy books to get more points?

Reading books that are well within their reading ability may seem appealing to your child as they will be able to read the books quickly and more fluently. They may also find it easier to answer the comprehension questions in the quizzes. However, it is important for your child to challenge themselves by reading books that will help them develop their reading and comprehension skills.



Will this be the only reading lesson in school?

No. AR is designed to help support your child's reading journey and provide extra practice, but your child will continue to be taught reading comprehension, vocabulary and other key skills.

