



Getting curious, finding out: reading non-fiction at Pre-level

This guide will help you to get the most out of the DK Super Readers at Pre-level. These books are ideal for children near the start of their reading journey. Because the books are packed with fascinating facts and detailed pictures, they are also highly appealing for older readers.

Before children read

Wherever possible, encourage children to choose the book they want to read, from a selection at Pre-level. Linking reading to children's existing interests is a great way to help them to develop as readers. It shows them that reading non-fiction can be fun, as well as a fascinating way to learn about the world.

Start by looking at the cover together, and link it to children's interests and existing knowledge. For instance, if a child picks *Meet the Dinosaurs* to read, say, 'How would you like to meet a dinosaur today?' Talk about some of the dinosaurs the child knows. Which do they think might be in the book? What might it be like to meet a dinosaur?

Ask children what they already know about the topic of the book, and what they hope to find out. If there are particular things the child wants to know, look out for information on these as the child reads.

During reading

Support children to use their reading skills as they read. Depending on children's level of confidence and experience, you could read the book to them, encouraging them to join in where possible, or listen and support them as they read aloud. Remind them to use the phonics they know to work out any unfamiliar words, and if they struggle, read the word for them.

Go at the child's pace, and keep the reading session fun by stopping to discuss the facts and look at the pictures on each page. Be guided by the child's interests, encouraging them to talk about any aspect of the book that appeals to them. Add your own thoughts and ideas, too!

After reading

Look back through the book together, and talk about it. What was the most interesting thing the child found out? Do they have any unanswered questions about the topic now that they've read the book? (If so, you could help them to find the answers either in other books or online.)

Encourage children to reread the book as often as they want - returning to a well-loved book is a great way of deepening reading skills and increasing children's pleasure in reading.

Children can also answer the quiz questions at the end of each book, or explore the online resources for more fun book-linked activities.

Developing super non-fiction reading skills

At Pre-level, children will be developing lots of new non-fiction reading skills. Here are some ideas for helping them.

- **Answering questions about details** Turn to a page that the child particularly enjoyed. Ask them a question related to the text or pictures, for instance, on page 12 of *Meet the Dinosaurs*, ask, 'What can you tell me about Velociraptor's feet?' (E.g. that they have sharp claws, or that Velociraptor runs fast on them.)
- **Retelling part of a book** Ask children to choose a favourite section and tell you about it. They can use the pictures to help them, but encourage them to use their memory, too.
- **Identifying and finding out about new words** Help children explore the meanings of words that might be unfamiliar. Encourage children to find a word that was new to them, and talk about what the word means. Children could try using the new word in a sentence!
- **Understanding how both words and pictures help us to find out information** Look together at a favourite page from the book, and ask, 'What information do we get from the words on this page?' Then look at the picture. Can children identify some extra information that isn't in the words, but is in the pictures? (For instance, in *Meet the Dinosaurs*, there is a lot of extra information about the dinosaurs' appearance in the pictures.)