

Every Child Matters and reading

The *Every Child Matters (ECM)* agenda should be at the heart of all teaching and learning including reading. The renewed Primary Framework for literacy has embedded the principles of *ECM* into their guidelines so that everyone involved in teaching children aged from 3 to 11 can put the principles into practice and continue to raise standards. This book has been written to take the *ECM* outcomes into account. It achieves this in the following ways:

Staying Safe

We teach our children to stay safe in a number of ways, not the least of which is by teaching them to ask questions and to think independently. Throughout the book, and from Foundation Stage to Key Stage 2, there are suggested activities that encourage children to ask questions in order that they have some responsibility and control over what they learn.

Being Healthy

The theme of being healthy, both in mind and body, is developed through a number of units in this book. In particular 'Chapter 2: You can... read to develop mind and body' and 'Chapter 5: You can... Read the game', where children are encouraged to participate in sport and other activities during the summer holidays.

Enjoying and Achieving

This outcome is the main focus of this book and of every unit in it: in order for children to enjoy and achieve in school and society today they need to be able to read and write. One of our aims therefore should be to promote reading as being at the heart of enjoying and achieving.

Economic Well-being

For children in primary schools, this is generally seen as being linked to enjoying and achieving: children who do well at school have a better chance of attaining economic well-being. Activities in this book that focus on strengthening bonds between parents and children, particularly in homes where reading is not a traditional activity, potentially contribute to the economic well-being of the entire family.

Making a Positive Contribution

Community and cultural links are well represented in this book. Suggested activities, which make children aware of events in school and in the wider community, which promote discussion, negotiation and action and which help children to take some responsibility for events outside of their immediate lives, all teach them how to make a positive contribution within their different communities.