



Getting curious, finding out: reading non-fiction at Level 2

The ideas in this guide will help you to get the most out of the DK Super Readers at Level 2, and extend children's non-fiction reading skills. The Level 2 books are ideal for children who are beginning to read fluently and confidently. However, the books can also be enjoyed by younger or older children as a fun way of increasing their reading experience.

Before children read

Encourage children to choose a book they'd like to read from a selection at Level 2. Working with children's own interests is a great way to show them that reading can be fun, as well as being a good way to learn more 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 *Submarines and Submersibles* to read, say, 'Have you ever seen a submarine in a film, or even in real life? What do you think it would be like to travel in one?' If there are particular things the child wants to know about submarines, look out for relevant information as the child reads.

During reading

Support children to use their reading skills as they read. If they choose to read out loud, listen and support them as they read. Remind them to use the phonics they know to work out any unfamiliar words, and if they struggle, read the word for them.

If the child chooses to read silently, encourage them to pause during the reading and talk about the pictures and information in the book. You could ask them to choose a favourite section and read it out loud, so you can check they are reading with fluency and understanding.

Invite the child to explore the pictures as well as reading the words, and encourage them to ask questions as they read. Help them to look for the answers in the book if possible. Support them by asking open questions such as 'I wonder why ...?' and 'What do you think ...?'

After reading

Look back through the book together, and discuss it. What can the child remember about what they learnt in the book? Which was the most interesting part, and why? Do they have any unanswered questions about the topic now that they've read the book? (If so, 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 Level 2, children are extending and developing their non-fiction reading skills further. Here are some ideas for helping them.

- **Summarising what a text is about** Ask the child to choose a section of the book and explain what it is about. Can they sum this up briefly, without relating all of the detail?
- **Making connections within a text and between texts** Ask children to tell you about some differences and similarities in the book. For example, if they have read *Submarines and Submersibles*, ask them which they would prefer to ride in: a submarine or a submersible? Why? If they have read other books or seen films about submarines, talk about how this book is similar and how it is different. For example, does it contain different information, or present the information differently?
- **Recalling some key details** Encourage children to talk about some specific details that they remember from their reading. For example, in *Submarines and Submersibles*, ask them if they can explain what an ROV is and how it differs from a submarine.
- **Identifying the author's point of view and your own point of view** After reading, ask the child what they think the author might think about the topic. For example, does it sound as if the author thinks submarines and submersibles are exciting? What does the child think? Do they agree with the author?