

Our Top Tips for Reading at Home

Talk about books and stories.

This is a great way to make connections and develop a lifelong love of books and stories and to make reading enjoyable and fun. Talk about different styles and types of books, the different genres available, books that are factual (information books), picture books and books that make you laugh, for example. Talk about your favourite books from you were growing up and things you have learnt or enjoyed when reading. Model reading, by regularly reading yourself.

Make reading time special.

Set time aside to share a book together and make this part of your daily routine. Take turns to read the pages, discuss what is happening, ask questions and make predictions. Talk about how the book made you feel. What was your favourite part? Would you recommend it to someone else? Has the same author published any more books? If you didn't enjoy it, discuss why? Finding your preferred genre, or style of book can take a little time.

Build reading time into your daily routine.

Try and find time to read a book, or part of a book or a short story, every day. Even five minutes, or just a few pages before bed, can make the world of difference to a child's reading development and understanding of the world around them. Reading a range of different books and stories can help your child develop the skills they need to tackle simple life problems, friendship situations, visit different places around the world and meet different types of people. Children make new discoveries and learn new words with every single book they read. Research shows that children who start school with a good vocabulary and communication skills make friends more easily and have a greater sense of self.

Bring reading to life and make it fun.

After reading a book, try and bring to life something relating to what you have read. This could be to follow recipe from a book, bake a cake for example, go on a similar adventure, have a picnic, go on a treasure hunt or a walk, dress up, play games, or build a den, to list but a few. Most children love getting into character and pretending to be one of their favourite book characters or friends.

Visit your local library.

A visit to your local library can be a fabulous adventure and a world of discovery in itself. Libraries are packed full of a fabulous array of reading resources from books and magazines to workshops and challenges. They also offer brilliant online materials including audio books and eBooks to borrow too.

Encouragement and simple rewards.

We acknowledge that some children are reluctant readers and understand that there are lots of distractions in society today. If a little extra encouragement is needed, like a sticker or reward chart, or a small treat of some description afterwards, this is completely fine. Hopefully this will be short lived, and your child will slowly develop their own passion for reading eventually without these incentives being needed.

Getting your child involved.

Finding the right book that your child enjoys, can take time. It is important to let them get involved in choosing the books or magazines they would like to read, and when they do find something, they like, to let them read it over and over again, if they wish. Repetition will help younger children learn and remember new words rapidly and getting an understanding of how sentences are structured. Following your child's interests is one of the best ways to keep them engaged and make reading fun, which is likely to make them want to read more widely in the future.