



Tips to Encourage Your Child to Read for Pleasure

- Try to encourage independent reading as much as possible but remember, all children, regardless of age, will still love being read to;
- Older children who can 'read' still need encouragement at home to enjoy reading. Show an interest in the books they bring home;
- Encourage your child to try reading books by different authors and / or different types of books (see separate document for recommended authors and like for like authors and age-appropriate books);
- If they don't like the book they are reading, encourage them to change it. Making an informed choice is also an important part of reading for pleasure;
- Encourage your child to read to younger brothers and sisters to make them feel like the 'expert';
- Encourage your child to keep a record of the books they have read, perhaps giving each book a star rating;
- Try to support you child with comprehending what they are reading. Ask questions which will deepen their understanding of a text (see separate document of questions that you could ask when reading with your child).

Top Tips for Reluctant Readers:

- Connect reading with your child's passion. Whether it's football, skateboarding or space travel, get a subscription to a magazine on that topic. If it has his/her name on the address label, a magazine becomes a personal invitation to read;
- Tell your child a joke or a riddle — and pull out the book where you found it. Joke books, riddle books and books of sports trivia are irresistible to some of the most reluctant readers;
- Read books with your child that have silly drawings or humour only a child would love;
- Show your child that books are the keys to achieving a desirable skill. Does he/she want to do magic tricks? Does he/she want to learn to care for a new a pet? Show them how books can give step-by-step instructions;
- Introduce series books. Such books can tempt a less confident or skilled reader because of their predictable themes and familiar characters. There are many high-quality graphic novels that draw in readers through illustrations, short-form text, and engrossing story lines;
- Look for different reading opportunities. Reading is valuable no matter what the format. Don't worry if your child only enjoys reading fact books, newspapers, magazines, comics and the internet. This will support their reading alongside reading books;
- Take turns. With a book your child has chosen, take turns reading a page (or two) to each other.