



Encouraging Your Child to Read for Pleasure

Although life is often hectic, you should try to read with your child at least once a day at a regularly scheduled time. But don't be discouraged if you skip a day or don't always keep to your schedule. Just read to your child as often as you possibly can.

If you have more than one child, try to spend some time reading alone with each child, especially if they're more than 2 years apart. However, it's also fine to read to children at different stages and ages at the same time. Most children enjoy listening to many types of stories. When stories are complex, children can still get the idea and can be encouraged to ask questions. When stories are easy or familiar, children enjoy these "old friends" and may even help in the reading.

Taking the time to read with your children on a regular basis sends an important message: *Reading is worthwhile.*

To help support your child with their understanding of what they are reading, you could ask them some of the questions below about a book you are enjoying together.

Reading Questions:

Before your child reads a book, ask:

Why did you select this book?

What makes you think this book is going to be interesting?

What do you think the book is going to be about?

Does this book remind you of anything else you've already read or seen?

What kind of characters do you think will be in the book?

What do you think is going to happen?

While your child is reading a book, ask:

Will you catch me up on the story? What's happened so far?

What do you think will happen next?

If you were that character, what would you have done differently in that situation?

Where is the book set?

If the main character in that story lived next door, would you be friends? Why/Why not?

Did you learn any new words or facts so far? What are they?

After your child has finished a book, ask:

What was your favourite part of the book? Why?

Who was your favourite character? Why?

What was the most interesting thing you learned from the book?

Why do you think the author wrote this book?

Would you have ended the book differently? How would you have ended it? Did it end the way you thought it would?

If you could change one thing in the book, what would it be?