

## Encouraging your children to read

Reading is fundamental to the development of children and countless research shows the links between good reading skills from an early age and future success in life. However, finding books children want to read or authors that excite them can be difficult.

- Ensure your child sees you reading regularly whether it's a book, newspaper or magazine as it will instil a love of reading
- If you don't have time to take your child to browse in the library or local bookshop then introduce them to an online resource such as [www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk](http://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk). You can browse the website but also register and then download extracts to sample books and to try different authors.

## Tips for nurturing a younger child's interest in reading:

- Reading should be a shared experience with your child in order to encourage a love of books from an early age.
- Children often learn stories off by heart so that they appear to 'read' a book. This is normal and an important part of your child becoming a reader. It shows they understand the connection between the words in print and the story.
- Children also often want to read the same book over and over again. This shows that they are enjoying the book and are getting real pleasure from reading.
- If you are not confident readers yourselves, you can still help your child by talking about the pictures and making up a story to go with them. If you don't like reading out loud, story tapes are great. You can borrow story tape and book packs from the library.
- Let your child help you choose the books you read together. If they don't like the book don't force them to read it. We don't read a book as an adult that we aren't interested in! Making an informed choice is also an important part of reading for pleasure.
- Read in a comfortable place and use lots of praise when your child reads.
- It's not just about books. Point out all the words around you: labels on food, street signs etc. Leave messages on the fridge to be read. Encourage your child to write shopping lists and to read them when you are shopping.
- Don't forget the traditional nursery rhymes. Children soon learn them by heart and love to 'pretend' to read them in a book.
- Keep in touch with school and ask for suggestions on how you can help with reading and writing.

## Parents: Reading for pleasure

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- If they have a favourite book or author let them read them again and again but also introduce other authors gradually who write in a similar style (See list below).
- Make reading fun and try to encourage your child to try different authors (See suitable author list).

### Reading advice for parents of older children

- Encourage independent reading but remember children will still love being read to! (Who doesn't?)
- Older children who can 'read' still need encouragement at home to enjoy reading. Show an interest in the books they bring home and try the website [www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk](http://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk) to find information on different authors and download extracts of books to try.
- Encourage your child to try different authors and types of books (see lists below for recommended authors and like for like authors).
- If they don't like the book they are reading, encourage them to change it. We don't read a book as an adult that we aren't interested in! 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.
- Don't worry if your child reads newspapers, magazines, comics and the internet. This will support their reading alongside reading books.
- Try to support you child with comprehending what they are reading. Ask questions which will deepen their understanding of a text.
- Keep in touch with school and ask for suggestions on how you can help with reading and writing

*Skills that can support comprehension when you are listening to your child read. Try to use one of these each time you are reading together*

### *Prediction*

Predicting makes the reader active in the reading process from the beginning and helps to activate prior knowledge.

### *Making connections*

This deepens the reading process and understanding by allowing new connections to form. Links can be made between what is known and what is about to be read.

### *Inferring*

Inferring supports the reader in the process of making predictions, drawing conclusions and making judgements (see questions on the next page).

### *Asking questions of a text*

By teaching readers to deliberately pause and generate questions, we are giving them a strategy to become better learners and to understand a text more deeply.

### *Visualising*

Visualising allows readers to engage with the text and helps them to remember key points.

### *Skimming*

Skimming involves reading quickly over a piece of text to gain a general overview of it. It supports the understanding of a text.

### *Scanning*

Scanning is an extremely important skill as pupils learn to scan parts of texts to locate information to provide the answers to their questions. It involves glancing through material to locate specific details.

### *Summarising*

Summarising helps the reader to understand a text by being able to pick out the most important parts.

*These are the type of questions you can ask to support inference and developing vocabulary (2 key areas that can cause difficulty when children are reading and that are a key focus for SATS tests)*

### *Questions that relate to inference:*

- *How can you tell that....?*
- *What impressions of....?*
- *Why did...find it difficult...?*
- *How do you know that...?*
- *What evidence is there of...?*
- *Explain what this description suggests about...?*
- *Why was he...?*
- *In what ways might.... character appeal to many readers?*

### *Questions that relate to vocabulary development:*

- *Find and copy one word that suggests that...*
- *Give two impressions this quote gives you of the...*
- *What does the word /phrase suggest about...?*
- *Give the meaning of the word....in this sentence*
- *Find and copy one word or one group of words that shows...*
- *What does.... mean?*

## Parents: Reading for pleasure

### Some recommended authors and 'like for like' authors

There are hundreds of fabulous children's authors. Here are a few to try but check out the websites at the end of this flier for information about recommended authors.

Anthony Browne	Jill Murphy	Colin McNaughton	Pat Hutchins	Ann Cameron
Shirley Hughes	Marcia Williams	Helen Ward	Michael Morpurgo	Jenny Nimmo
Alan Ahlberg	Emily Gravett	Anne Fine	Carol Ann Duffy	CS Lewis
Philip Ridley	Michael Foreman	Ted Hughes	Grace Nichols	Benjamin Zephania

Here are some 'like for like' authors. If your child likes a certain author's style, why not try different authors who write in a similar style. Check out the website [www.love4reading4kids.co.uk](http://www.love4reading4kids.co.uk) for more 'like for like' authors.

Like for like authors

<b>Anne Fine</b>	<b>Francesca Simon</b>	<b>JK Rowling</b>	<b>Anthony Horowitz</b>
Geraldine Mc Caughrean	John Gant	Jill Murphy	Charlie Higson
Jacqueline Wilson	Lauren Child	Eva Ibbotson	Robert Muchamore
Dick King Smith	Andy Stanton	Diane Wynne Jones	Eleanor Up dale
Cathy Cassidy	Chris Riddell	Darren Shan	Philip Reeve
Sarah Singleton	Alan Ahlberg	Ursula K Le Guin	Joe Craig
Adele Geras	Jan Mark	Jenny Nimmo	Marcus Sedgewick
Malorie Blackman	John Dougherty	Duncan Pile	Padraig Kenny
Michael Morpurgo	Dav Pilkey	Nigel Hinton	

## **Useful websites on children's books**

[www.ReadingZone.com](http://www.ReadingZone.com)

This site is dedicated to helping young people, parents and teachers to find out about children's books. Each area on the site provides information about new and classic titles with expert advice to help you find the best children's books available. There are Children's Zones with games and activities and a specialist School Zone full of helpful resources.

[www.healthybooks.org.uk](http://www.healthybooks.org.uk)

Contains booklists to help children through different situations such as bereavement.

[www.lovereadingschools.co.uk](http://www.lovereadingschools.co.uk)

Very useful review site with Template Reading Lists for each academic year from Year 1 to Year 9. Free downloads of the openings of books to sample once subscribed. Subscription is free.

<http://mrsmad.com> Reviews and writing games.

[www.childrensbooks.co.uk](http://www.childrensbooks.co.uk)

Provides a number of links with different websites of authors and illustrators.

[www.wordpool.co.uk](http://www.wordpool.co.uk)

A site for both children and parents, with advice on choosing books and encouraging reluctant readers.

[www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk)

Provides a book information service and has information about awards and publications. It has links for libraries, publishers, and magazines.

[www.readathon.org](http://www.readathon.org)

A national sponsored reading scheme often used by schools as part of National Children's Book Week. It operates all year round.