

Top Tips for helping your child to read



1. Choose a quiet time

Set aside a quiet time with no distractions. Ten to fifteen minutes is usually long enough.

2. Regular practice

Try to hear your child read at last 3 times a week.

3. Make reading enjoyable

Make reading an enjoyable experience. Sit with your child. Try not to pressurise if he or she is reluctant. If your child loses interest then do something else.

4. Be positive

If your child says something nearly right to start with that is fine. Don't say 'No. That's wrong,' but 'Let's read it together' and point to the letters as you say their sound, point to the words as you say them. Boost your child's confidence with constant praise for even the smallest achievement.

5. Communicate

Communicate how your child is reading by completing the reading record with positive comments and any concerns. Your child will then know that you are interested in their progress and that you value reading.

6. Talk about the books

There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Just as important is being able to understand what has been read. Always talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end, their favourite part. You will then be able to see how well they have understood and you will help them to develop good comprehension skills.

7. Variety is important

Remember children need to experience a variety of reading materials eg. picture books, hard backs, comics, magazines, poems, and information books. Encourage your child to use the public library regularly and to borrow from their class library.