

How to help your child with reading ...



- Recognise and be proud of your child's success in reading
- Ensure your child is exposed to a wide range of reading materials, i.e. newspapers, letters, recipes, TV guides, magazines, puzzle books.
- Encourage your child to read for different purposes, i.e.
 - reading biographies and novels
 - reading and explaining instructions for using new appliances
 - reading interesting articles from the newspapers
 - reading to a younger brother and sister
 - reading to find out more information about a topic.
- Ensure that your child knows that you value and enjoy reading yourself.
- Encourage your child to go to the local library regularly.
- Continue to read to your child if he/she enjoys it.
- Read some of the books your child enjoys so that you can share reactions and pleasure together. Discuss what the book was about and which part was the best.
- Discuss favourite authors together and why you like them. Give books for presents.
- Read books that have been made into films or videos and encourage your child to talk about the similarities and differences between the books and the video or film.

Strategies to help your child with reading

- Ask your child which word would make sense when he/she becomes stuck on a word. Encourage your child to have-a-go and read-on to get the overall meaning.
- If a child makes a mistake when reading aloud, don't interrupt the reading, allow time for self-correction. If the mistake doesn't alter the meaning let it go.
- Ask your child to retell the story in their own words including characters, settings and major events.

Reading for different purposes

- Select a simple child's cookery book from the library and plan a cooking session. Encourage your child to read and follow the instructions.
- Include humorous books when selecting books to read. Encourage your child to make up jokes or riddles or humorous stories.
- Draw the child's attention to weather patterns displayed in the paper and relate these to televised weather reports.
- Buy your child games that provide simple instructions to be read and followed. Play word games together.
- Encourage your child to make up and perform plays for the family, using their own and other stories. Some children like to write simple scripts or draw up a plan for other children to follow.

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- Involve your child in planning for holidays. Ask the child to list all the things to be taken. Obtain a map of the area and discuss the route you will be taking. Point out the signs along the way.
- Encourage your child to help you find a particular street when you are using a street directory.
- Ask your child to read and explain instructions for using new appliances.
- Encourage your child to draw and write about books and to write stories or factual information for others to read.

Developing research skills

- Encourage your child to talk about books he or she has enjoyed or disliked. Foster thoughtful criticism and comment.
- Demonstrate discussion and clarify issues to help understanding.
- Support your child's research tasks by:
 - Taking your child to the local library to find appropriate books
 - Encouraging your child to jot down key issues about a topic
 - Helping your child to classify this information
- Encourage your child to explore the topic further by brainstorming topic-related questions using a 'Question Word' framework-
 - 'Who', 'How', 'When', 'If', 'Where', 'Why'
- Encourage your child to use the following procedures when taking notes, e.g.
 - Short notes- key words and phrases with the reference book open
 - Long notes- own sentences with the reference book closed
- Continue to discuss ideas, statements and underlying beliefs which are evident in newspapers, books and television programs.