



Top tips to help your children enjoy reading

Building vocabulary and understanding

Learning to read is about listening and understanding as well as working out what's printed on the page. Through hearing stories, children are exposed to a wide range of words. This helps them build their own vocabulary and improve their understanding when they listen, which is vital as they start to read. It's important for them to understand how stories work too.

Reading is like swimming.

Getting your 10-metre certificate is not the end of your swimming career. It's the beginning. Once you can use a stroke or two to propel yourself along, you can strike out, build up your swimming stamina and enjoy the water. Perhaps in time you'll swim the Channel or compete in the Olympics. The possibilities are endless but not if you hardly ever go in the water.

To become confident deep-end readers, children have to practise all the time. Otherwise they will slip backwards and even the decoding skills will dull. Real readers go on getting better at it throughout their lives.



Reading should be fun. Here are some tips to help turn your children into little bookworms.

- *Make books a part of family life – Always have books around at home. That way you and your children are ready to get reading, even if it's only for ten minutes.*
- *Read about something they're interested in – Help your child find the right book for them. It doesn't matter if it's fiction, poetry, comic books or non-fiction.*
- *All reading is good – Don't rule out non-fiction, comics, graphic novels, magazines or leaflets. Reading is reading and it's all worthwhile.*

- *Get comfortable! – Snuggle up together somewhere warm and cosy, whether it's in bed, on a beanbag or on the sofa. And make sure your child has somewhere comfy to read on their own too.*
- *Ask questions – To keep them interested in the story, ask your child questions as you read. Start with 'Where did we get to last time?', 'Can you remember what's happened so far?' and 'What do you think will happen next?'*
- *Read whenever you get the chance – Have a book or magazine with you for any time your child has to wait, like at the doctor's or the dentist.*
- *Read favourites again and again – Encourage your child to re-read the books and poems they love. Re-reading helps to build fluency and confidence.*
- *Enjoy bedtime stories – Read with your kids at bedtime as often as you can. It's a great way to end the day and to spend valuable time with them.*
- *Make the most of rhyme and repetition – Books and poems with rhymes and repeated words or phrases are great for getting your kids to join in and remember the words.*