



Supporting your child with reading

Reading improves all of a child's literacy skills and can offer them a lifetime of enjoyment and learning. Encouraging your child to read at home for both educational purposes and pleasure, is a crucially important way to support their learning.

Older children may feel that they enjoy reading on their own more and prefer to read in their head instead of aloud to an adult. This is usually evidence that they are enjoying the reading experience and are skilled and independent enough to read alone. The focus for a parent/carer at this point should be more on discussion of comprehension and fostering an environment where sharing reading experiences and opinions about books is valued at home

Below are our top tips for supporting your child with reading:

1. Encourage your child to read

Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination and has educational benefits too. Just a few minutes a day can have a big impact on children of all ages.

2. Encourage reading choice

Teenagers enjoy independence- give them opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.

3. Create a comfortable environment

Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently - or together.

4. Talk about books

This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything.

5. Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them

You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. If they have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) then short, creative activities may be the way to get them



most interested. If English is an additional language, encourage reading in a child's first language, as well as in English. What matters most is that they enjoy it.

6. Embrace technology

Join Kirklees Library and have access to thousands of e-books! Embracing technology is a way to make reading more interesting and appealing <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/libraries/e-library.aspx>

The following websites offer more tips and resources for supporting reading at home:

Department for Education- 10 Top Tips

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read>

Oxford Owl- Reading at home & support for those accessing phonics

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-at-home/>

The Book Trust- The UK's largest children's reading charity. Which supports schools and families.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/what-if-my-child-doesnt-like-reading/#!?q=&sortOption=MostRecent&pageNo=1>

BBC Bitesize- A wealth of resources for supporting your child with not only reading, but curriculum content and revision skills

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zbxb9q>

National Literacy Trust- an independent charity working with schools and communities to give disadvantaged children the literacy skills to succeed in life.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/>