

## Reading at home

Reading aloud to your child is the best way to get them interested in reading. With the help of parents, your child can learn how to read and can practise reading until they can read for their own enjoyment. Then they will have a whole world of information and knowledge at their fingertips!

**“If children are confident readers, they will not only do well in reading and writing tasks, they will be able to understand what is being taught in every other subject: science, history, geography and even maths.” The Book Trust.**

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Ideas to help your child reading at home:

- Talk, talk, talk! Oral language is the foundation for reading. Listening and speaking are a child's first introduction to language. Talking and singing teach your child the sounds of language, making it easier for your child to learn how to read. Use different voices for different characters in the story. Use your child's name instead of a character's name!
- Re-read your child's favourite stories as many times as your child wants to hear them, and choose books and authors that your child enjoys.
- Read stories that have repetitive parts and encourage your child to join in.
- Point to words as you read them. This will help your child make a connection between the words he or she hears you say and the words on the page.
- Read all kinds of material – stories, poems, information books, magazine and newspaper articles, and comics.
- Take your child to the library and look at interactive books and the Internet, as well as books.

- Read every day! Try to read with your child as often as possible. It's the best thing you can do to help him or her learn and it also allows you to spend time together in an enjoyable way and to build a strong and healthy relationship.
- Choose a comfortable spot to read, where you can be close to your child. Make it your "reading place"! Set aside a special shelf in that area for your child's books. Choose a variety of books.
- Vary the length of reading time according to your child's age and interests. For young children, several short sessions (of 10 minutes each) may be better than one long session (of 30 minutes).
- Keep reading to your child even after he or she has learned to read. By reading stories that will interest your child but that are above his or her reading level, you can stretch your child's understanding and keep alive the magic of shared reading.
- As a parent, you are your child's most important role model. If your child sees you reading, especially for pleasure or information, your child will understand that reading is a worthwhile activity.
- Talking about the books you read is just as important as reading them. Discussing a story or a book with your child helps your child understand it and connect it to their own experience of life. It also helps enrich your child's vocabulary with new words and phrases.
- As your child learns to read, listen to them read aloud. Reading to you gives your child's a chance to practise and to improve on their reading skills.

As you listen to your child, remember that your reactions are important. Be enthusiastic and praise your child as often as you can. If possible, be specific with your praise so that your child knows what he or she is doing well.

- Show your child that you are enjoying the story by indicating interest and by asking questions.

- Give your child time to figure out tricky words, and show your child how he or she can learn from mistakes.
- Take turns reading with your child, especially if your child is just beginning to read, or try reading together.
- Talk about a story after your child has read it, to make sure that they understand it.