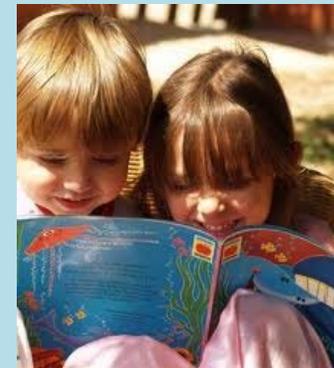


How to help your child to
become a life-long reader

A reading workshop for
parents



‘Young people who enjoy reading very much are nearly five times as likely to read above the expected level for their age compared with young people who do not enjoy reading at all.’

Children’s and Young People’s Reading Today
National Literacy Trust 2012

‘Children who are supported in their reading at home are more likely to enjoy reading and tend to achieve more highly at school.’

Building an Outstanding Reading School
Oxford University Press



As well as learning the skills of reading, children also need to develop a love of reading for pleasure and engage with reading for pleasure on a daily basis.

Activity 1

What are the barriers to reading at home with your child?

How can these barriers be removed?

Discuss and write your responses on a post-it.



Activity 2

Think about your early childhood memories of reading and the books that you enjoyed.

Describe them to a friend. Are there any similarities?

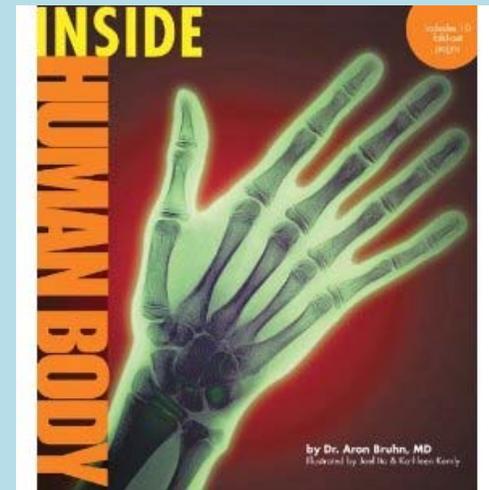


Activity 3

When children read or are read to, like adults, they gain the most enjoyment from texts that interest them.

When children enjoy reading texts, they will want to read more.

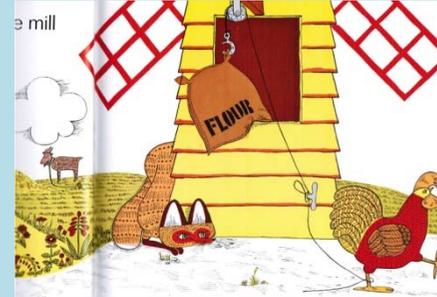
What kind of books does your child enjoy?
Share your thoughts with a friend.



The simple view of reading

Reading is when you...

- Use phonics to decode words
- Read the tricky words on sight
- Understand what you have read



Being literate is when you...

- Know how to choose the book that you need for a particular activity or purpose (using signposts)
- Can talk about authors and identify genres and their features
- Have a real curiosity about words and their meanings and understand the power that words can have
- Have reading stamina – be able to read and concentrate for extended periods of time.

Reading is about sharing.

Every time you read to or with your child, you will have many opportunities to be an advocate of reading and model good reading behaviours.

Use the language of books and discover with them what each book is trying to say.

setting

word choice

punctuation

glossary

character

index

layout

homophones

If your child finds reading difficult, develop reading flow by

- Regular tricky word practise
- Using lots of praise for blending and having a go
- Encouraging use of pictures to make sensible guesses
- Pointing out repetition
- Pointing out spelling patterns
- Breaking down polysyllabic words into syllables
- Reading around the unknown word. What would make sense?
- Noting the shape of a word
- Reading with and to your child EVERY DAY!



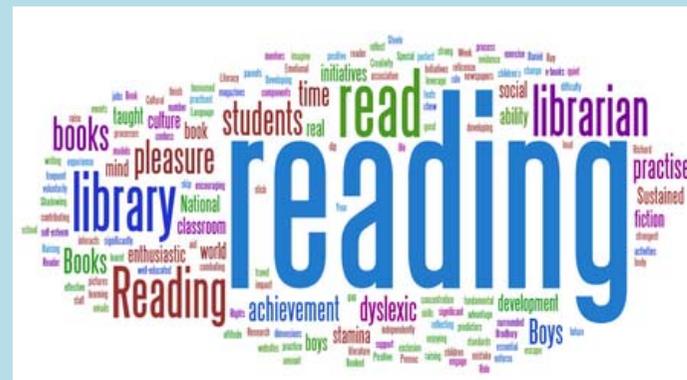
If your child has just started to take off with their reading...

- Encourage the use of a story voice (fiction) or the expert voice (non-fiction)
- Discuss use of punctuation and how it informs reading flow and style
- Discuss likes and dislikes
- Discuss layout and genre
- Ask questions and expect the child to explain their response with supporting evidence from the text
- Explore words and their meanings
- Find time to read with and to your child every day



If your child is already a good reader...

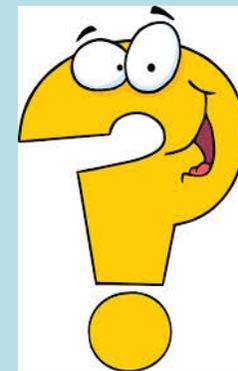
- Discuss word meanings and how they add to the 'feel' of the text
- Identify the time and place that a story is set and ask for evidence to support their answer
- Ask your child to make direct reference to the text when answering questions or give proof of something that they have inferred
- Encourage your child to develop reading stamina by providing them with longer, more challenging texts that interest them
- Give your child opportunities for daily 'down time,' when reading can be used as a means of relaxation
- Probe to ensure that tricky vocabulary is really understood
- Keep reading with your child on the radar. They still need your support!
- Give your child lots of real reading contexts.



Activity 4

Over to you!

What does your child need next?
Share your ideas with a friend.



Things you can do to achieve reading success!

1. Pick your reading time carefully and make sure that the atmosphere is relaxed but focussed. Establishing a routine can really help!
2. Read everything, everywhere. Create real contexts for reading.
3. Fill your home with books!
4. Visit the library.
5. Explain navigation techniques when searching for information online.
6. Reward good reading behaviours.
7. Have high expectations of your child.
8. Talk about next steps.
9. Show your child that you value reading yourself.
10. Get together with a group of friends to support each other and take the pressure off yourself.

Remember, just as you can read your child like a book, so your child can read you!!

