



# Top tips for parents

## Help your child develop a love of reading

Here are our top tips to help parents encourage even the most reluctant child to develop a love of reading:

- **Make time to read:** research shows that reading with your child for as little as 10 minutes a day can significantly boost how well they do at school. Set aside a regular time every day to read with your child, whether it's for 10 minutes when they get in from school or reading a bedtime story together. Little and often works best.
- **Let your child choose what to read:** your child is more likely to enjoy reading if they get to choose what they read. Join your local library for free and help your child explore a wide variety of books from animals and sports to cooking and wizards.
- **Explore different reading materials:** as well as fiction there is a whole world of comics, magazines, ebooks, audio books and non-fiction for your child to discover.
- **Get the whole family involved:** encourage your child to read with other family members, such as grandparents, brothers and sisters, and aunts and uncles.
- **Bring stories to life:** when you read stories out loud with your child, give characters different voices and mannerisms. Try pausing the story and asking your child what happens next. You could also act out parts of the story together.
- **Create fun reading challenges at home:** on a rainy day you could organise a treasure hunt around the house by giving your child a list of things to find and seeing how quickly they can read the list and collect all the items.
- **Be positive:** praise your child for trying hard at their reading and let them know it's alright to make mistakes.
- **Be a reading role model:** your child learns from you, so seeing you enjoying and valuing books can be a great inspiration!

For more information and ideas to help your child develop a love of reading, visit:

- The National Literacy Trust's **Words for Life** website is packed full of information, advice and resources for parents to help develop children's language and communication skills from 0-11 years: [www.wordsforlife.org.uk](http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk)
- **BookTrust's Bookfinder** helps parents find the perfect book for their child, according to age and interests: [www.booktrust.org.uk/books/bookfinder/](http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/bookfinder/)
- **BookTrust's best books for children guide** lists the top 100 books for children to read before they're 14: [www.booktrust.org.uk/books/100-best-books/](http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/100-best-books/)
- The National Literacy Trust's **Literacy Apps** website is a handy guide for parents with tips to on how to get the most out of apps that help young children learn communication skills: <http://literacyapps.literacytrust.org.uk/>
- Find stories and activities from popular **CBeebies** shows to boost your child's literacy skills: [www.wordsforlife.org.uk/cbeebies-magazine-activities](http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/cbeebies-magazine-activities)

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