



## 10 top tips on getting your child into reading

1. Start early – well before your child can read themselves. Even tiny babies can enjoy books and get into the habit of cuddling up, turning pages and listening to the sounds you make.
2. Surround them with books and other reading material. Children will show more interest in reading if books are readily available. Begin collecting children's books and keep them in a convenient place (like your child's bedroom). If you don't have money for books, get books from your local library or from charity shops or car boot sales. Remember that reading newspapers, magazines, brochures and websites can help your child too (but don't overdo the screen time).
3. Choose books your child likes, rather than ones you feel they should read. Children are more likely to listen and follow along with stories they like. Encourage them to choose some of the books you will read together.
4. Set aside a special time for reading. One of the best times to read to your child is just before bedtime; but you can decide on the time that works best for you and your child.
5. Read and re-read books that are predictable and contain repetitions. Children – especially younger ones – love this. A great example of this kind of book is *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin, Jr., and Eric Carle.
6. With infants and toddlers, of course read short books with lots of pictures. As your child grows, choose books that are longer and use bigger words.



## Why reading with your child matters (continued)

7. Talk about books and reading with your child. He or she will want to learn to read if reading seems to be important and enjoyable TO YOU. Make sure that your child sees you and others reading daily. The example you set says a lot!
8. Continue to read to your child, even when he or she is beginning to read by themselves. Don't forget, even the grumpiest teenager can, deep down, really enjoy reading with their dad sometimes! Even though your children may be reading on their own, they will still benefit from listening to you read to them. Make it a fun time for everyone by taking turns reading. If there are several characters in a book, divide the parts among yourselves.
9. Make sure you have a regular slot in which to read every day. This makes sure you don't forget about it, and gives your child something to look forward to. What if you don't live with your child full-time? No problem – read with them every time they're with you....and the rest of the time, talk regularly about books and reading, so you keep in touch with what they like and don't like.
10. Once they're ready to follow more complicated plots, choose longer books and read a chapter per night. Coming back to the same book and having to remember what's happened before can help build their memory and understanding.