

Supporting your child with reading at home

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.

- ✓ *Ask your child to choose what they'd like to read. They'll feel more interested in the story if they've picked it out themselves.
(And don't worry if they keep returning to the same story, either!)*

Read aloud regularly

Try to read to your child every day.

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/take-10-to-read-every-day/>

Encourage reading choice

Give children lots of 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 to encourage them to see reading as something to do for leisure. Read aloud with them and make it fun and interesting. Be patient if they're struggling with a word and avoid pushing them to finish a book any faster than what they're comfortable with.

Read together

Choose a favourite time to read together as a family and enjoy it. This might be everyone reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time, or getting your children to read to each other. This time spent reading together can be relaxing for all.

- ✓ The benefits of reading to children include helping them build language skills, learn about the world, and develop empathy and emotional awareness. Reading together also provides an opportunity for parents and children to connect.

Create a comfortable environment

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

- ✓ If you can, turn off the TV, radio and computer. It's easier for both of you to enjoy the story without any other distractions.



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Make use of your local library

Local libraries also offer brilliant online materials, including audiobooks and eBooks to borrow.

<https://www.tameside.gov.uk/Libraries/Library-Contacts,-Hours-and-Services>

- ✓ Have a family bookshelf. If you can, have bookshelves in your children's bedrooms, too

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.

Make reading active

Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.

- ✓ Read a book as a family and then find the movie version (if it exists) so you can watch it at the next family movie night

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.

- ✓ Why not go digital and try one of many audio books to stir up creativity with reading?