

## 10 TIPS TO ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO READ.

1. **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.
2. **Read aloud regularly.** Try to read to your child every day. It's a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading them and looking at pictures. Try adding funny voices to bring characters to life.
3. **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.
4. **Read together.** Choose a favourite time to read together as a family and enjoy it. This might be reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time or getting your children to read to each other. This can be relaxing for all.
5. **Create a comfortable environment.** Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently or together.
6. **Make use of your local library** they are open from the 4<sup>th</sup> July. Explore all sorts of reading ideas including brilliant on-line resources such as audio books and ebooks.
7. **Talk about books.** A great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and what it suggests the book could be about. Talk about what you have been reading and share ideas. 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.
8. **Bring reading to life.** You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Would you recommend it to a friend? Play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book or discuss an interesting article you have read.
9. **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. Organise treasure hunts related to what you are reading. Help your child make their own book by using photos or pictures from your day adding captions.
10. **Engage your child with reading in a way that suits them.** You know your child best and the best times for them to read. For some children short, creative activities may help keep their interest. If English is an additional language, encourage reading in their first language, as well as in English.