



*Learning, growing, caring, sharing*

## Tips and tools for parents/carers



**Helping your child with reading**

**P1 - 3**

1. **Cuddle up and read.** Quiet times together are opportunities to bond...and read. The cuddling can be as important as the reading. Make it exciting: put some drama into your voice or let your child read every other page. As you go, explain any new words or ideas.
2. **Public libraries today are worlds to explore so try to go regularly.** Your library has great resources - books, computer games, DVDs, CDs, magazines, newspapers and Internet access. There are also terrific in-house programmes such as reading circles for little ones. Pop into Mayfield Library and talk to the librarian about what is available.
3. **Make your kitchen part of your "reading zone".** Have fridge magnets available so children can start making words and short sentences.
4. **Words are everywhere - take everyday opportunities to read with your child.** Your child's world is filled with words - on cereal boxes, street signs, shops, posters, TV ads, etc. Wherever you go, you can always find new words and point them out.
5. **Games can be great learning tools.** Board games or card games such as word bingo or memory and rhyming cards can be a fun way to learn about words, letter sounds, and reading. They can help children realise how much fun learning can be. Check out our school fair or second-hand stores for gently used games. You can even create your own by cutting out pictures, writing words on cards and getting your child to match them.

6. **Computers are reader friendly too!** Though many worry that children may spend too much time on the computer, there are some great games that help children learn to read and allow them to create their own stories. Find some child-friendly websites that have games you can play along with your child.
7. **Books make great gifts.** Ask family and friends to give a book instead of a toy as a gift. Make sure to tell them about your child's reading level and interests. To build up a home library find almost-new books at car boot sales and school fairs.
8. **Subscribe to a magazine.** There's no substitute for the excitement of purchasing a magazine. Let your child subscribe to their favourite age-appropriate magazine and watch their eyes light up with each new issue.
9. **Be a reading role model.** When your child sees you reading, they will want to imitate you. It won't be long until they learn that reading is fun, interesting, and a "grown up" thing to do.
10. **Keep books, magazines and newspapers handy.** Keep a box in the kitchen or living room for easy access.