



Learning, growing, caring, sharing

Tips and tools for parents/carers



Helping your child with reading

P4 - 7

1. **Keep reading with your child.** Children are never too old to be read to-or let your child read to you. Read a variety of material - magazines, newspapers, books, poems and comic books. Try cutting out or printing interesting or funny articles to share with them.
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. Pop into Mayfield Library and talk to the librarian about what is available.
3. **Read some of the same books as your child.** There are many books that are loved by people of all ages. Ask your librarian or child's teacher for suggestions. You can share your thoughts and ideas, and have great conversations about the characters, stories or topics.
4. **Ask your children what they're reading.** Ask what it's about and what is most enjoyable about the book. Ask your child to describe it to you.
5. **Tap into interests and hobbies.** Children are more likely to read about what they find really interesting, like sports or crafts. Don't worry if it's a comic book, magazine or an illustrated novel, just remember all reading is good and tastes will change as your child gets older. When you go to the library, let them choose their own books.
6. **Find books that relate to TV shows.** Let's face it, TV and video games are part of life now and children benefit when we help them learn how to think about these messages too. We also know that some children find TV and video games fascinating. You can use this to your advantage-introduce

them to books or magazines that relate to their favourite shows, movies or games.

7. **Encourage your older child to read to your younger child.** The older child will practice reading out loud and the younger child will enjoy being read to. Best of all, they get to enjoy spending time together.
8. **Play games together.** Trivia games and board games such as *Junior Trivial Pursuit®* or *Junior Scrabble®* can be a fun way to learn about words and reading. Children have such a good time playing they don't realise they are learning.
9. **Computers can be reading zones too!** Though we all feel that children may spend too much time on the computer, there are some great games that help children with reading and allow them to create their own stories and books. Look for "parent approved" on the box in shops and in the library.
10. **Give praise.** The best motivation comes from your positive feedback. Whenever your child finishes a reading or writing assignment, ask about what was read and praise your child's effort.