

Research shows that reading with a young child is the single most important thing you can do to help your child's education.



A PARENT'S LITTLE GUIDE TO HELPING CHILDREN READ

TIP 1

FOCUS ON WHAT YOU CAN DO, NOT WHAT YOU CAN'T!



Sometimes we have to work hard to fit everything in! When it comes to reading, just a few simple things can make all the difference

- Talk to your child's teacher or teaching assistant about their reading
- Join your local library (you will need ID) and find out if they run story-telling workshops or lend out story CDs
- Talk to other parents and carers about what books their children like

FIND THE RIGHT LEVEL

TIP 2

Many young children struggle with reading because they are introduced to books which are too hard for them

- Encourage your child to choose a book they like
- Ask your child's teacher about the books that will best suit their level of reading
- Read harder books to them but let them read the easy bits
- Read their favourite book again and again with them. Repetition helps them learn



TIP 3

MAKE READING A WAY OF SPENDING REGULAR TIME TOGETHER



Create a regular 'special time' to read together. They will love the time when they have your undivided attention

- Build a regular story time into your child's bedtime routine
- Switch off the TV and your mobile to read with them
- Tell them about a book or story you liked when you were a child or make up a story



TAKE TIME TO LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN

TIP 4

When you are busy it can be easy to rush and read the words for your child to hurry them along. Slow down to listen to them without interrupting

- Give them your full attention as they talk or read to you
- Take it in turns to read parts of the story
- Tell them that you enjoy listening to them read to encourage them to do it again



TIP 5

STRIKE A BALANCE



Your child is bound to make mistakes. Praise them for the words they get right, don't just correct the ones they are struggling with

- Look out for things which will motivate your child to read – instructions on how to enter a competition or a TV listing to discover when a favourite programme is on
- If your child repeatedly struggles with some words then spend time at the start of each reading time trying them out

TIP 6

TALK ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE READ



This helps children think about what they've read, boosts their imagination and confidence. It's also a good way to check that they understand what they've read

- Get your child to think of questions they can ask you to test if you've been listening!
- Ask how they think a particular character in a story might be feeling
- Ask them to tell you what they would do if they were in the story or what they think is going to happen next

ENJOY READING EVERYWHERE

TIP 7

Go online together and read or print off a web page that interests them •
Encourage them to read traffic signs, adverts, cereal packets, simple news headlines •

TIP 8

ASK FOR EXTRA HELP IF YOU THINK YOUR CHILD NEEDS IT



It may be that despite all attempts your child still struggles when it comes to reading. The earlier any problem is spotted the sooner something can be done about it

- Talk to your child's teacher about any concerns you have – they will be able to offer practical advice and options for getting extra help
- Get your child's eye sight checked out
- Visit www.springboard.org.uk where we list a range of specialist organisations which can help

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOOK!

TIP 9

Children have access to a range of wonderful creative story and picture books, websites, audio books and mobile devices. However, they still need to 'crack the code' by learning the basic building blocks for reading

Make a simple book together - get them to draw pictures for it •
Remember to have fun talking, listening, telling stories and reading together •

TIP 10

REMEMBER YOUR OWN LANGUAGE



It is important to maintain your own language for your child – learning more than one language is beneficial in many ways and doesn't slow them down as they learn to read.

- Talk to them in your own language at home
- Have books in your language for them to look at
- Encourage them in both languages – never tell them off for speaking the 'wrong' language, they are both right for them!



The
Dyslexia-SpLD
Trust

Springboard for Children provides one-to-one literacy teaching for children, working with schools and families to help children unlock their learning potential.

Springboard for Children is a member of the Dyslexia and Specific Learning Difficulties Trust

To find out more about Springboard for Children please get in touch.



020 7921 4550



info@springboard.org.uk



www.springboard.org.uk

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