

## **Resource for Parents - Why is Reading so important?**

This half term's resource comes from Pearson UK, a leading company in supporting learners achieve their potential. The full article can be read here:

<https://www.pearson.com/uk/learners/primary-parents/learn-at-home/help-your-child-to-enjoy-reading/why-is-reading-so-important.html> and a useful guide for parents can also be downloaded from this page.

Studies show that reading for pleasure makes a big difference to children's educational performance. Here's how you can get your child off to a great start.

Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

In fact, reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school rather than their social or economic background.

### **What difference can I make as a parent?**

You can make a huge difference! Parents are the most important educators in a child's life - even more important than their teachers - and it's never too early to start reading together. Even before they're born, babies learn to recognise their parents' voices. Reading to your baby from birth, even for just a few minutes a day, gives them the comfort of hearing your voice and increases their exposure to language.

### **Building vocabulary and understanding**

Learning to read is about listening and understanding as well as working out what's printed on the page. Through hearing stories, children are exposed to a wide range of words. This helps them build their own vocabulary and improve their understanding when they listen, which is vital as they start to read. It's important for them to understand how stories work too. Even if your child doesn't understand every word, they'll hear new sounds, words and phrases which they can then try out, copying what they have heard.

As children start to learn to read at school, you can play an important role in helping to keep them interested in books. Find out what interests them, help them to find books that will be engaging and fun, and spend time reading the books they bring home from school together.

### **Top 10 tips to help children enjoy reading**

To help make reading enjoyable and fun, we asked experts and authors what they recommend to help get kids reading.

1. Make books part of your family life - Always have books around so that you and your children are ready to read whenever there's a chance.
2. Join your local library - Get your child a library card. You'll find the latest videogames, blu-rays and DVDs, plus tons and tons of fantastic books. Allow them to pick their own books, encouraging their own interests.
3. Match their interests - Help them find the right book - it doesn't matter if it's fiction, poetry, comic books or non-fiction.
4. All reading is good - Don't discount non-fiction, comics, graphic novels, magazines and leaflets. Reading is reading and it is all good.
5. Get comfortable! - Snuggle up somewhere warm and cosy with your child, either in bed, on a beanbag or on the sofa, or make sure they have somewhere comfy when reading alone.
6. Ask questions - To keep them interested in the story, ask your child questions as you read such as, 'What do you think will happen next?' or 'Where did we get to last night? Can you remember what had happened already?'
7. Read whenever you get the chance - Bring along a book or magazine for any time your child has to wait, such as at a doctor's surgery.
8. Read again and again - Encourage your child to re-read favourite books and poems. Re-reading helps to build up fluency and confidence.
9. Bedtime stories - Regularly read with your child or children at bedtime. It's a great way to end the day and to spend valuable time with your child.
10. Rhyme and repetition - Books and poems which include rhyme and repetition are great for encouraging your child or children to join in and remember the words.