





# Tips for getting your child reading



**"You're never  
too old, too wacky, too wild,  
to pick up a book and  
read to a child."**  
-Dr. Seuss

**Never too old to be read to either!**



- **Read together** Just because your child is moving up to secondary school doesn't mean you have to stop the habit of enjoying a book together. Research shows that being read to is hugely beneficial for children of all ages. Lots of pausing to talk and ask questions about the book as you go along helps your child's comprehension and enjoyment plus it can be a great bonding time!
- **Research the story** Look up background information, where the story is set, historical context, the author's life etc. This gives you and your child plenty of points for discussion.
- **Make reading a daily habit** Just 20 minutes a day makes a real difference. Set a time for this, turn off the TV and all devices. The ideal time is before bed and curling up with a book can help your child unwind.
- **Watch the film/TV spin-off** after you've finished a book together. Discuss which was better and whether the story/characters were portrayed as you had imagined.
- **Share your own reading** Talk to your child about what you're reading whether it's a book/newspaper/magazine/blog. You're your child's No.1 role model!
- **Seek out books that will appeal to your child** If there's something your child is really interested in, look out for fiction centred on this, eg, main character is a footballer, story is set in WW2, a book from the horror genre.
- **Go to the public library/bookshops/charity shops together** Have fun browsing/choosing books together. Encourage your child to visit our **school library** where we have thousands of books and Miss Johnson, our super-knowledgeable school librarian, can recommend them reads suited to their interests.
- **Audio books** can be a fantastic way for children to access a story that might be a little too challenging for them to read. Your child can listen while walking the dog, chilling after school or break the monotony of car journeys by listening all together. If you're a member of the public library (free to join), you can download audiobooks for free onto a phone/iPad via an app. Digital magazines and comics as well as eBooks are available for free too.
- **Audible** are offering free stories to children while schools are not open to all children   
**West Sussex Libraries— RBS Digital app**   
**Brighton & Hove Libraries— Borrow Box app** 
- **Comics & graphic novels** These can be great for getting children who aren't enthusiastic readers interested in reading. Comics are often full of high-energy plots, beautiful illustrations and engaging language. Graphic novels can be more accessible to reluctant or struggling readers than text-only books. Many popular titles are now available as graphic novels.
- **Choose your own adventure books** are stories where the reader decides which direction the story takes. They are fantastic for getting reluctant readers enjoying reading and make a good choice for reading together too. Three of the most popular series are: **You Say Which Way** , **Choose Your Own Adventure** and **Goosebumps**.
- **If your child struggles with reading and/or has dyslexia** Barrington Stoke publish super-readable children's books that break down the barriers that can stop children getting into reading. Their short fiction is accessible to those with lower reading ages whilst being pitched at an older interest level. The books have a dyslexia-friendly font and spacing as well as being printed on dyslexia-friendly paper. 
- **Use book recommendation websites to explore new books** LoveReading4Kids.co.uk allows you to search by genre, reading age and interest age and has reviews by adults and children.