

Parent Reading Support Toolkit

Helping Your Secondary Age Child Read More



Create a Reading-Friendly Environment

- ✓ Cozy reading nook
- ✓ Books & magazines available
- ✓ Limit distractions



Connect Reading to Interests

- ✓ Pick topics they love
- ✓ Let them choose



Set Goals & Celebrate Progress

- ✓ 15 minutes a day
- ✓ Reward milestones



Model & Discuss Reading

- ✓ Read & talk together
- ✓ Ask about their books



Use Tech & Audiobooks

- ✓ E-readers & apps
- ✓ Audiobooks
- ✓ Online book clubs

Encourage a Love of Reading!

John O' Gaunt Parent 'Reading Support Toolkit'

*To support secondary
aged students...*

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Encourage a Love of Reading!

Create a Reading-Friendly Environment

- Make books, magazines, and digital reading materials easily accessible at home.
- Set up a cozy, quiet reading nook that invites focused reading.
- Limit distractions like phones or background TV during reading time.

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Connect Reading to Interests

- Encourage books, articles, or comics related to your child's hobbies—sports, gaming, science fiction, or music.
- Let them choose what they want to read, even if it's graphic novels or online content, to build intrinsic motivation.

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Encourage a Love of Reading!

Set Manageable Goals and Celebrate Progress

- Set realistic reading targets, such as “read 15 minutes a day” or “finish one chapter per evening.”
- Celebrate milestones with praise or small rewards, reinforcing the habit of consistent reading.

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Model and Discuss Reading

- Let your child see you reading and talk about books or articles you enjoy.
- Engage in discussions about what they read—ask questions, share thoughts, or make connections to real-life situations.

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Encourage a Love of Reading!

Use Technology and Interactive Tools

- Leverage e-readers, audiobooks, and reading apps to make reading more interactive.
- Audiobooks can be paired with physical books to improve comprehension and fluency.
- Encourage online reading challenges or book clubs for social motivation...

7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

2 Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

5 Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

7 Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'

Here are some further tips from the Education Endowment Foundation.



Education
Endowment
Foundation