
Make reading active

Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you're reading. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.

Engage your child in reading that suits them

You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. If they have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) then short, creative activities may be the way to get them most interested. If English is an additional language, encourage reading in a child's first language, as well as in English. What matters most is that they enjoy it.



'The more that you read the more things you will know


The more that you learn the more places you will go'

Dr. Seuss

READING AT LONGLANDS



10 Top Tips for
parents to support
children to read



Encourage your child to read

Reading helps your child's well-being, develops imagination and has direct benefits on their education too. Just a few minutes reading a day can have a huge impact on children of all ages.



Read aloud regularly

Try to read to your child every day. It's a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading and looking at the pictures. Try adding different voices to bring the characters to life.



Encourage reading choice

Provide opportunities for children to read different things that they will enjoy from a selection of fiction, non-fiction, comics, magazines, poetry and recipes. Try leaving a range of reading material around the home.



Bring reading to life

You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Would you recommend it to a friend? Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.



Create a comfortable environment

Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently - or together.



Make use of your local library

Choose books to sit and read with your child. Take along some official ID showing your name and current address so that you and your child can become a full member. The library will give you a library card and PIN. Each person can take out up to 12 books for three weeks.



Talk about books

This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything.



Read together

Choose a favourite time to read together as a family and enjoy it. This might be everyone reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time, or getting your children to read to each other. This time spent reading together can be relaxing for all.