

Top 10 tips to get Kids reading

1. Read everything and anything - It doesn't matter what children read as long as they are enjoying it. Reading habits are formed through enjoyment. Encourage them to read chapter books, audiobooks, non-fiction, joke books and comics. Even if the books they choose aren't to your personal taste, let them explore and find out what they like best.



2. Lead by example - Show your kids that reading is enjoyable by doing it yourself. That doesn't have to mean sitting down for hours with a literary classic. Perhaps you like reading magazines, online news websites, the local paper or finding inspiration in your favourite recipe books or travel guides.

3. Kids rule - Let your children choose what they'd like to read, and read it as well so you can talk about it together. There are some great children's books out there which adults will enjoy too! Peer and sibling recommendation is also really important, so check out our [Book Sorter](#) to find books recommended by children.



4. Book talk - Children love to be asked what they think about books and it's a great way to develop their confidence. Ask your children open questions about the story they've just read - what happened, what did they like/didn't they like and why, favourite character and why, anything they'd change, would they like to read something similar or different next. Maybe you could re-write the ending together. This is a great way to engage with older children who perhaps find reading aloud together a bit childish.



5. Be different - Find unusual ways to read together and spark your children's creativity. Perhaps read outside when the weather is nice or build a reading den behind the sofa. Make choosing their next book into a game by putting a mixture of titles into a hat and taking it in turns to choose. Perhaps you can let your children choose the next book you read too!



6. Don't fight the screen - If your child loves screen time then perhaps try to incorporate that into your reading routine. Reading e-books can be a good way to encourage children who are reluctant to sit down with a paperback. Book to film adaptations are also great - why not read the book together as a family and then watch the film too (make it an event with popcorn!). You can talk about how they were different and which one you liked best and why.



7. Find your own time – Set a regular time for reading together, so it becomes part of your routine. Reading before bed can help settle children and help them get to sleep, but that might not suit your family. Find a time that works best for you.



8. Invite a guest star - why not invite friends and family to make a guest appearance at story time as a surprise. This could either be online or in person. Children will be excited to share a book with grandparents, friends or a favourite aunt or cousin.



9. Be silly! When reading to children, try to put on funny voices and make funny faces, maybe even act out what's going on in the story – get the kids involved too. Don't be afraid to make a fool of yourself – kids aren't, so why should grown ups? They will really remember and be excited by the experience of reading.



10. Reward their reading - Join the Summer Reading Challenge at sillysquad.org.uk