



Learning to love reading

1 **Read aloud** to your child every day if possible. Set aside a special time e.g. bedtime. It helps them to learn the language of books and will encourage them to enjoy books and reading.

2 **Give books as presents.** Teach your child to look after books by setting up a special book shelf at home.

3 **Talk with your child** about the meaning of stories. Ask questions and talk about the settings, the characters and events in stories you have read together.

4 **Read with your child** in your first language if it's not English. Experience shows that using your home language will help your child to learn to read in English.

5 **Read your child's writing** or have him or her read the writing to you, and make a positive comment, e.g. "I really like the way you've described this."

6 **Play word games** such as / spy or rhyming games. As your child's confidence with word games increases play games such as Boggle, Scattergories or Scrabble together.

7 **If you have a computer** at home make it available for your child to use. Ask your child to type letters or words that you have written down for them to copy, e.g. their name, 'mum', 'dad', etc.



8 **Practise** reading and writing tasks that you use at home such as making grocery lists, filling in forms, writing letters, sending cards or emails.

9 **Encourage your child** to have a go at writing and praise all of their efforts.

10 **Ask your child questions** that require them to answer in sentences rather than "yes" or "no". A tip here is to start the question with 'how' or 'why' or 'what'.

11 **Ask your child** to tell you about events which did not involve you, e.g. a friend's birthday party. This helps them work out what a listener needs to know and prepares them for writing.

12 **Talk with your child** about the things you do together such as reading, watching DVDs, socialising, and involve them in everyday conversations with family, friends, teachers, shopkeepers, etc.

13 **Talk about how you spell**, and what you do when you don't know how to spell a word.

14 **Encourage your child** to look at new words, say them, write them from memory, then check them.

15 **Use a simple dictionary** with your child. If your child has not used a dictionary before explain to them how it works first and then use an easy word your child knows, e.g. 'cat' to show them how it works.