

Encouraging your children to read

Reading is fundamental to the development of children and countless research shows the links between good reading skills from an early age and future success in life. However, finding books children want to read or authors that excite them can be difficult.

- Ensure your child sees you reading regularly whether it's a book, newspaper or magazine as it will instil a love of reading
- If you don't have time to take your child to browse in the library or local bookshop then introduce them to an online resource such as www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk . You can browse the website but also register and then download extracts to sample books and to try different authors.

Reading advice for parents of older children

- Encourage independent reading, but remember children will still love being read to! (Who doesn't?)
- Older children who can 'read' still need encouragement at home to enjoy reading. Show an interest in the books they bring home and try the website www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk to find information on different authors and download extracts of books to try.
- Encourage your child to try different authors and types of books (see lists below for recommended authors and like for like authors).
- If they don't like the book they are reading, encourage them to change it. We don't read a book as an adult that we aren't interested in! Making an informed choice is also an important part of reading for pleasure
- Encourage your child to read to younger brothers and sisters to make them feel like the 'expert.'
- Encourage your child to keep a record of the books they have read, perhaps giving each book a star rating.
- Don't worry if your child reads newspapers, magazines, comics and the internet. This will support their reading alongside reading books. Also encourage children to read poetry as it will support the development of language and vocabulary.
- Try to support you child with comprehending what they are reading. Ask questions which will deepen their understanding of a text.
- Keep in touch with school and ask for suggestions on how you can help with reading and writing.

There are hundreds of fabulous authors to choose from. There are a few suggestions below. Also check out the websites at the end of this flier for information on different authors.

Some suitable authors for KS2	
Year 3 /4	Year 5/6
Nigel Hinton	Berlie Doherty
Berlie Doherty	Michael Morpurgo
Francesca Simon	Shaun Tan
Roald Dahl	RJ Palacio
Gillian Cross	Philip Pullman
Clive King	Eva Ibbotson
Dick King Smith	Frank Cottrell Boyce
Jill Murphy	Louis Sacher
Philippa Pearce	CS Lewis
Cressida Cowell	David Almond
Ted Hughes	David Walliams
Emily Gravett	Philip Ridley
Jenny Nimmo	Grace Nichols

A good way to check out great books and authors are to see which ones have won book awards:

UKLA book awards

Carnegie Greenaway award

Guardian children's fiction prize

Children's book award 2016

Blue Peter book awards for children

Waterstones book awards for children

Some recommended 'like for like' authors (see [lovereadng4kids](#) for further suggestions)

Anne Fine	Francesca Simon	JK Rowling	Anthony Horowitz
Geraldine Mc Caughrean	John Gant	Jill Murphy	Charlie Higson
Jacqueline Wilson	Lauren Child	Eva Ibbotson	Robert Muchamore
Dick King Smith	Andy Stanton	Diane Wynne Jones	Eleanor Up dale
Cathy Cassidy	Chris Riddell	Darren Shan	Philip Reeve
Sarah Singleton	Alan Ahlberg	Ursula K Le Guin	Joe Craig
Adele Geras	Jan Mark	Jenny Nimmo	Marcus Sedgewick
Malorie Blackman	John Dougherty	Duncan Pile	
Michael Morpurgo	Dav Pilkey	Nigel Hinton	

Useful websites on children's books

www.ReadingZone.com

This site is dedicated to helping young people, parents and teachers to find out about children's books. Each area on the site provides information about new and classic titles with expert advice to help you find the best children's books available. There are Children's Zones with games and activities and a specialist School Zone full of helpful resources.

www.healthybooks.org.uk

Contains booklists to help children through different situations such as bereavement.

www.lovereadingschools.co.uk

Very useful review site with Template Reading Lists for each academic year from Year 1 to Year 9. Free downloads of the openings of books to sample once subscribed. Subscription is free.

<http://mrsmad.com> Reviews and writing games.

www.storiesfromtheweb.org

Subscription site for libraries, but if your local library doesn't subscribe you can still go to the book award links. Here you will find lots of useful information on books that have won awards or been shortlisted for awards.

www.childrensbooks.co.uk

Provides a number of links with different websites of authors and illustrators.

www.wordpool.co.uk

A site for both children and parents, with advice on choosing books and encouraging reluctant readers.

www.booktrust.org.uk

Provides a book information service and has information about awards and publications. It has links for libraries, publishers, and magazines.

www.readathon.org

A national sponsored reading scheme often used by schools as part of National Children's Book Week. It operates all year round.