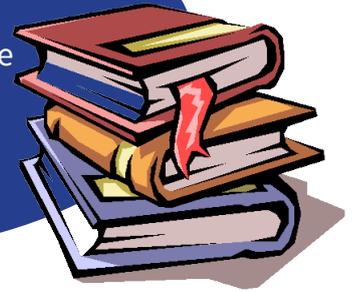


# WHY READING IS SO IMPORTANT?

Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

“Reading for pleasure is the single biggest factor in success later in life, outside of an education. Study after study has shown that those children who read for pleasure are the ones who are most likely to fulfil their ambitions. If your child reads, they will succeed - it's that simple.” Bali Rai



## WHAT DIFFERENCE COULD I MAKE AS A PARENT?

The short answer is: a lot! Parents are by far the most important educators in a child's life and it's never too young for a child to start, even if you're only reading with your child for a few minutes a day.

## TIPS TO GET YOUR CHILD READING...

- Make books part of your family life – always have books around so that you and your children are ready to read whenever there's a chance.
- Join your local library – get your child a library card. You'll find the latest videogames, blu-rays and DVDs, plus tons and tons of fantastic books. Allow them to pick their own books, encouraging their own interests.
- Match their interests – help them find the right book - it doesn't matter if it's fiction, poetry, comic books or non-fiction.
- Ask questions – to keep them interested in the story, ask your child questions as you read such as, 'What do you think will happen next?' or 'Where did we get to last night? Can you remember what had happened already?'
- Read whenever you get the chance – have them read menus, roadside signs, game directions, weather reports, movie time listings, and other practical everyday information. Also, make sure they always have something to read in their spare time when they could be waiting for appointments or riding in a car
- Tempt your child to read by having a large supply of appealing books and magazines at their reading level. Put the reading materials in cars, bathrooms, bedrooms, family rooms, and even by the TV. All reading is good. Don't discount non-fiction, comics, graphic novels, magazines and leaflets. Reading is reading and it is all good.
- Have a family reading time. Establish a daily 15 to 30 minute time when everyone in the family reads together silently. Seeing you read will inspire your children to read. Just 15 minutes of daily practice is sufficient to increase their reading fluency
- Be knowledgeable about your children's progress. Track their progress in acquiring basic reading skills on report cards and standardised tests
- Show enthusiasm for your childrens' reading - your reaction has a great influence on how hard they will try to become good readers. Be sure to give them genuine praise for their efforts.