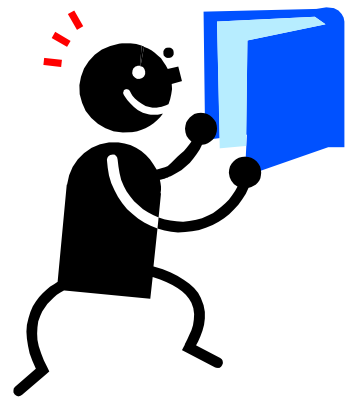
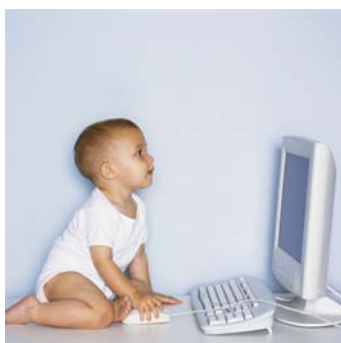


How to Grow A Good Reader



The gift of reading is a wonderful thing to give your child. It will help them at school, at work and in lots of other things they do as they grow up.

You can give them the gift of reading by doing things with them, and encouraging them. This short leaflet will try to give you some idea how you can do this.



Start from the very beginning:

You can start helping your baby to develop their skills as soon as they are born. You do this when you:

- ❖ Talk to them
- ❖ Point things out
- ❖ Sing songs and nursery rhymes
- ❖ Show them rag books, board books or pop up books
- ❖ Read to them

By hearing you talk they pick up patterns of language.

By looking at things around them they start to be interested in their surroundings.

By holding books they learn how they work and learn to turn the pages.

As they get older you can teach them songs and rhymes that you can say or sing together - again this helps them get used to the patterns that words can make.



As you move around together point out words that can be seen on signs, in shops, on vans, lorries, and on posters. You could put labels on things in your home or have the magnetic letters on a metal door.

Play I-Spy at home or in the car to encourage them to play with words and find out how they work.

Let them see you reading a book or a magazine. This shows them that reading is a good thing to do and little ones will copy you.



**You can read to your child.
You can read with your child.
You can be read to by your child.**

Each of these things can happen at a very early age.

When you read to your child let them sit with you so that they can see what you are reading. Be prepared to stop and talk about what you have read, and discuss the pictures, or ask some questions. Let them point to things in the pictures, or to words that they might know.

There are lots of different things that you can do if you read with your child. You could read a sentence first then they could read it, or you could take a sentence each. If it is a story with different characters your child could be one of the characters. Whatever way you choose make sure it is fun and not too hard. Always take time to talk about what you have read.

When your child reads to you do it at a time when you can both be relaxed and can see what is being read.

Don't do it:

- ❖ If you are feeling very tired, or cross
- ❖ If you are busy or need to give attention to someone or something else
- ❖ If there is something good on the tv that will distract you
- ❖ Don't do it for too long - 5 minutes a night is good, more than 10 is too long.

Do it:

- ❖ Often
- ❖ Cheerfully
- ❖ Somewhere that is quiet with no distractions

Praise and encourage your child as they read as often as they need it. You don't always have to say anything, you can nod and smile. When you do say something try to tell them what they are doing well - that way they will know what to keep doing.

Well done. That sounded really scary!

Useful things to say are:

I liked the way you realised that did not make sense and went back and checked it.

I liked the way you worked that word out by breaking it down.

I liked the way you made that sound scary/funny/spooky.

I liked the way you made that sound like a question.

I liked the way you went back to the start of the sentence and tried again.

I liked the way you kept trying and did not give up.

Mistakes

If someone is a good reader this does not mean that they do not make mistakes - it does mean that they check that what they have read makes sense and if it doesn't they correct themselves.

So, **if your child makes a mistake and it makes sense** let him carry on until you get to a suitable break, then ask him to look at the word again and tell him what he read.

For example:

If the book says: *The frog leaps* and your child reads "*The frog jumps*"

You could say something like, "*You read that very well and it made sense but look at that word. You said jumps, check it again.*"

If what your child reads does not make sense stop them and work it out together.

For example:

If the book says: *The frog leaps* and your child reads "*The fog leaps*"

You could say something like, "*You're doing well but that bit did not make sense. How can we work it out?*"

To help them work it out you could:

- ❖ Think about what would make sense
- ❖ Look at the start or end of the word
- ❖ Look at the letters in the word and try sounding them out
- ❖ Look for small words in the word
- ❖ Cover up parts and see if that helps

Don't let them struggle for a long time - tell them the word and get reading again.



What book to read? Usually it is good to let your child choose the book that you are going to read.

Hard Books

A book is probably too hard for your child to read for themselves if they are going to get stuck on more than 5 words in about ten lines of print (about 100 words). But don't let them be put off. You can always read to them and you can look at the pictures and talk about the book together.

Easy Books

Don't worry if your child wants to read an easy book to you. This will give them a chance to show you how fluent and good they are at reading. Encourage them to put expression in to what they read and to make it sound interesting.

Challenging Books

In between hard and easy are the books where your child will find some words that they need to work at. These books are good too and will help your child continue to develop.

Where to find books?

Your child's school may well send some books home for your child to read. If these are hard you can read to your child, if they are easy then he can read to you, or maybe it will be a challenging book that you can work on together.

You might have lots of books at home. If you do then encourage your child to look at them and find the ones they are interested in - but remember it is ok not to like a book - you just need to find the ones you do like. Or maybe you and your child will prefer to read magazines, or comics, or things on the computer.



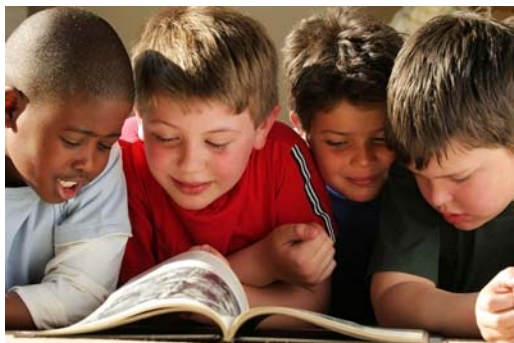
Whether you have lots of books at home or not it is always good to go to your library and look at the books they have. Both you and your child can join the library - and they don't just have books they have lots of other things as well.

Starting a Book

If you can, read the book before your child does. This means that you can be ready to do some things to help your child as they read.

You can:

- ❖ Talk about the book and what it is about
- ❖ Help them to prepare for any difficult words or names
- ❖ Show that you are really interested in what is in the book



Always spend time looking at the book together before you start to read it with your child. Look at the title, the cover, find the name of the author - and talk about what you expect the book to be about.

When you read let your child hold the book and turn the pages. Let them be in control.

You sit in the driver's seat when you learn to drive a car, and you need to hold a book when you learn to be a reader.

You need to talk with your child about what you read. Ask them questions to check that they can understand what they are reading - and let them ask you questions.

You will know when you have grown a good reader because:

- ❖ Your child will be able to choose books they want to read
- ❖ They will be able to read aloud in an interesting way
- ❖ They will not make many mistakes but when they do they will be able to correct themselves
- ❖ They will use different ways of coping with words that they do not know
- ❖ They will be able to talk about what they have read

