




**Raise a Reader - A Parent's Guide to Reading**


The best way to instil a love for and interest in literature, quite simply, is to read with your child. Reading provides a gateway into a world full of wonder, information and excitement, whilst also giving a real opportunity for close bonding. If you can help your child to love books from an early age, then it stands to reason that the process of learning to read will follow more easily.

With older children, it's important that they see that reading matters to you. If you don't enjoy books and literature, then how can you expect them to? Let them see you reading: books, magazines, newspapers, your Kindle etc. If you're really committed, you may even choose to read one of their books, so you can talk about it together.


**Babies-Toddlers**

Read with your baby/toddler...snuggle, cuddle and share a story.	Make books readily accessible (e.g. in the toybox) for your little one to 'read,' play with and chew.	Read and share rhyming books and nursery rhymes.	Feel free to go 'off piste.' Be descriptive rather than sticking exactly to the text...'Look at the cat. See how big and fluffy it is. It looks cuddly, just like Granny's cat.'
Think about the tone of your voice. For now, it's all about the sing-song quality and the connection between books, pictures, sounds and fun.	Provide books of different textures for your little one to touch and feel, or ones that have squeakers, flaps, shiny mirrors etc.	Choose simple books with colourful illustrations and toddler friendly subjects: animals, vehicles, children etc.	

**Pre-Schoolers**

	Let your child turn the pages of the book as you read (helps them understand that a book progresses page by page).	Follow the words with your fingers (helps your child understand that text is read left to right).	Look at the pictures and talk about what the story might be about.
During or after reading, talk about what the story was about, and what your child liked/didn't like.	Look for books with bright, funny illustrations and clear uncomplicated text.	Read books with strong rhymes and encourage your child to complete a rhyme, e.g. 'Rain, rain go away, come again another _____'	If your child is ready, you could start talking about the way the letters sound (not the letter names). If you're not sure what the letters sound like, there's lots of phonics clips online you could refer to.

## Early Level (Nursesey-Primary 1)

<p>Look at the front cover of the book. Quite often this will include the most difficult word in the book... 'My Dog's Called Wellington.' Being armed with this information, will make reading the book much easier if Wellington's name appears on most of the pages!</p>	<p>Talk about the pictures in the book before you start reading. This will help aid their understanding of the story as they read.</p>	<p>Check your child understands what they are reading... Tell me what just happened, why did _____ do that, what do you think might happen next etc?</p>	<p>Give positive reinforcement for a good guess. E.g. If your child reads 'I have a flannel to <i>clean</i> my face' instead of 'I have a flannel to <i>wash</i> my face' they are reading with good understanding. You can always go back and ask them to have another look at the word <i>wash</i> when they have finished the page.</p>
<p>Keep the reading sessions short (about 10 minutes) and don't even think about starting if your child is hungry, tired or upset etc.</p>	<p>Help your child learn their key words. These are words that can't be built up using phonics, but just have to be learnt, e.g. he, she, what etc. Focus on the key words that are in your child's school reading book.</p>	<p>Keep looking for books that your child will enjoy... ones that will catch their imagination or make them laugh. Expose them to riddles and rhymes, silly poems and plots... anything that will make them engage.</p>	

## First Level (Primary 2 - Primary 4)

<p>Put aside quality time to hear your child read their school reading book.</p>	<p>If this is the first time your child has read the book, look at the cover and title. Is there a blurb on the back? Give them time to flick through the pages and do a 'picture walk.' Can they make any links to other books they have read: themes, characters, authors, illustrators, or to real life?</p>	<p>During reading, have your child to use their finger to point to the words. Ask lots of questions, not just about the story, but also about the text itself (look for high frequency words, words with particular sounds, and words that mean the same as _____).</p>	<p>Give your child time to try and figure out any tricky sounds, letters or words. If they're still stuck after about 20 seconds, then it's time to step in. Encourage them to sound the word or letter out and then look for other examples in the rest of the book before they continue reading. Perhaps they can spot the challenging letter on a cereal box the next morning or use magnetic letters or playdough to 'write' the word.</p>
<p>Encourage them to look for clues in the text which might help. Is there anything in the pictures? Does the word they have used actually make sense within the sentence they have just read?</p>	<p>As your child gets older, encourage them to pick out good vocabulary from the texts they read. Encourage them to use the surrounding text to decipher what the word means. Can they use the word or phrase in a sentence of their own?</p>	<p>Although the school-books are important, don't forget to allow time for reading just for pleasure. Younger children will still want you to read with them, but older children may be beginning to want their independence. To find out if a book is too tricky, let them read the first page. If they get stuck on more than 5 words, let them choose another book to try, and don't forget, even the older children can still enjoy snuggling up with you for a bedtime story.</p>	



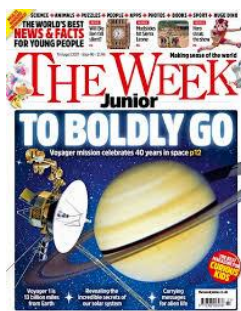
Aberdeenshire Library and Information Service - [Kids - Aberdeenshire Library and Information Service - OverDrive](#)

- Digital lending library



The Week Junior - <https://theweekjunior.co.uk/>

- News magazine for 8-14 year olds



First News - <https://www.firstnews.co.uk/>

- The UK's national newspaper for young people



Bookzilla - <https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/reading-and-stories/bookzilla>



(Please note: Some of the above, do require subscriptions).