

The Family READING Challenge

Great ideas to help you to support your child with reading



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MATHS ENGLISH
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Why is reading important and how can you help your child?

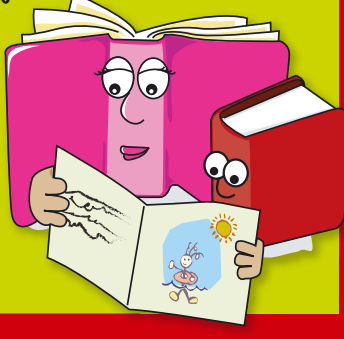
In this leaflet you will find some great ideas to help you to support your child with their reading. The ideas and activities are grouped by age but you may want to use some of the ideas from different ages with your child.

Try to make reading as much fun as possible. It is important to read with your child as often as you can in a quiet place. If your child is of school age you can talk to their teacher for more ideas and help. Visit your local library with your child. Help them to choose books to read together at home. Borrowing books from the library costs nothing. Staff will be able to help you choose the best books for your child.

0-3 years old

Begin to read books to your child from the very start. Your child will enjoy the sound of your voice as you read to them.

- ☐ Point to and **talk about the pictures** in the stories you share with your child.
- ☐ Don't worry about reading favourite books again and again. **Your child will begin to recognise the story and babble along with you.** This will help your child to learn and say new words.



0-3 years old

Teach your child some simple nursery rhymes and encourage them to join in with you. These may include rhymes from the language you speak at home.

Humpty Dumpty

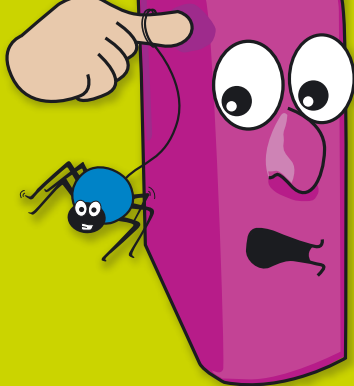
Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the King's horses,
And all the King's men,
Couldn't put Humpty together again!



0-3 years old

Incey, Wincey Spider

Incey, wincey spider,
Crawled up the water spout.
Down came the rain
And washed the spider out.
Out came the sunshine
And dried up all the rain,
So the incey, wincey spider
Crawled up the spout again!



3-5 years old

Let your child hold the book when you read. They will want to point to the words and pictures and pretend to read. This will help your child to learn how we read books.

- ☐ When you **read picture stories** ask your child to talk about **what is happening in the pictures**. Ask them what they think will happen **next**.
- ☐ **Make reading fun;** give different characters **voices** and use **actions** to show what is happening.
- ☐ Tell your child stories without books and **encourage them to make their own stories** (about their toys).

3-5 years old

- ☐ Ask your child to **talk about which books and stories they like** and also the ones **they don't like**. Ask them **why** and talk about what **you think**.
- ☐ Ask your child to **point out** and **read any words that they know** in books.
- ☐ As your child becomes more confident ask them to **follow the words when you are reading to them**.



3-5 years old

Look at favourite family photographs with your child and talk about them.

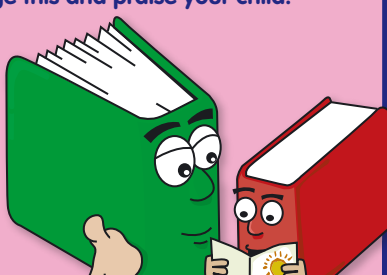
- ☐ Make a **scrapbook** with your child. Stick photos, pictures and items into the book and write down what your child would like these items to say. **Read this scrapbook with your child.**



6-8 years old

At this age your children often read lots of different things such as stories, information books, comics, magazines, the internet, newspapers, leaflets and flyers. It is really important that children read all sorts of things. Encourage this and praise your child.

- ☐ **Listen** to your child read in a quiet place.
- ☐ Try to make your child feel **good about their reading**. Praise them when they are reading and let them see that you **enjoy reading too**.



6-8 years old

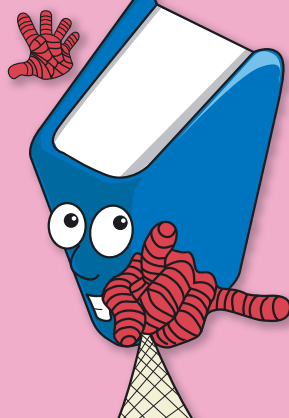
Talk about the main characters in a story. Ask your child who is their favourite. Ask them who they don't like in the story.

- ☐ Talk about pictures that your child finds interesting. Ask them to talk about what is happening in the picture. Ask them to imagine who the people are. What do they think happened before and after the picture?



6-8 years old

- ☐ Talk to your child about their favourite television programmes and films. Talk about what happens in them.
- ☐ Talk about the main characters and what they are like.
- ☐ Talk about the most exciting part or the saddest part.
- ☐ Ask your child to tell you why they enjoy the film or television programme so much.



8-11 years old

It is still important to listen to your child read at this age.

Read to your child at bedtime or other quiet times.

- ☐ Talk to your child about what they are reading at school. Do they enjoy reading? If not what else would they like to read? It is important that your child enjoys reading.
- ☐ Make your child the 'family reader', ask them to read the TV guide, shopping list... This shows your child that reading is a real life activity.



8-11 years old

Find two books that are very different, one may be a funny story and one may be a horror story. Talk about the two books and what the writers have done differently.

- ☐ Talk to your child about the books they read. Talk about how they feel. Has the story made them laugh or made them sad? Has the writer tried to make the reader think about certain things or feel a certain way?
- ☐ Find and read different types of non-fiction with your child (menus, teletext, newspapers). Talk about what is the same and what is different about them.



Types of Reading - what your child will read at school

Examples of non-fiction reading

newspapers
dictionaries
websites
magazines
teletext
internet sites
instructions
leaflets
emails
recipes

reports
maps
menus
TV guides
adverts

Examples of fiction reading

electronic games
horror stories
funny stories
romantic stories
graphic novels
mystery stories
adventure stories
traditional and fairy tales
myths and legends

Some of the things your child may read at home

comics
magazines
menus
flyers
leaflets
internet sites
newspapers
instructions
recipes
books
electronic games
birthday cards

TV guides
sport reports
texts
MSN
emails
programmes
adverts
CD-ROMS
maps
art work
picture books
novels



A reading home

- ☐ Encourage older children to read to younger members of the family.
- ☐ Make sure your child sees you reading. Read alongside your child and talk about what you are reading as well as asking your child about their reading.

In the kitchen...

- ☐ Read and talk about the words on cereal packets, labels.
- ☐ Read recipes and follow them with your child. Ask your child to read what ingredients you will need and what you will need to do to make the food.
- ☐ Write and read shopping lists together then look for the items in the correct place in the supermarket.

Reading on your travels

- ☐ When you are out and about point to words in the local area and read them with your child. Point out shop names, road signs, street names, food packaging, adverts etc.
- ☐ Collect a list of your favourite reads, your top ten or top five. Share them with your child. They could be favourite magazines, stories, websites etc.
- ☐ Play 'I spy' when you are with your child. Go through the alphabet seeing if they can see something which begins with a given letter, 'I spy with my little eye something beginning with f...'



Are you up for the Challenge?

Tick ☒ activities you complete and reward your family with a Family Reading Challenge Certificate.

You can download these from the parent section on

www.theblackcountrychallenge.co.uk