




 Encourage your child to play board games like junior scrabble and snakes and ladders, card games and play dough, jigsaws and number, letter or word treasure hunts


 Engaging in an activity with your child can help their maths, reading, vocabulary and confidence – cookery, gardening, sport, walks in the park or woods.


 Choose a quiet time (you can't compete with the TV).


 Regular Practice - 'little and often' is best .


 Have your child retell the story in his or her own words

 When your child gets stuck on a word, resist the urge to provide the answer immediately. Instead, encourage your child to look at the picture to get clues or to read the rest of the sentence and then try to fill in a word that makes sense


 If your child finds reading difficult and frustrating use comic books or graphic novels to help them follow the story. Always select books that are slightly easier to help build confidence. Read together, taking turns to read.


 Audio books can be a nice alternative and are very good to support the learning of dyslexic and autistic children.


 Help your children find more reasons to write. Enlist them in taking messages, making the shopping list, writing letters and answering emails, keeping a diary.

 Help your child use a junior dictionary to check their spelling (FREE access to Britannica Online at www.tipperarylibraries.ie)

Let's go to the Library

 The best place to journey through the world of words is your local library. Take advantage of your library's reading programs, story hours and resource materials, especially during the holiday months.

 Get your child a library card at the earliest opportunity. This gives your child a feeling of responsibility. Help your child find books on subjects of interest.

 If something in a novel interests a child, expand on this by exploring more about the topic at your local library.

Children join for FREE at Tipperary Libraries
www.tipperarylibraries.ie or Tel: 0504 21555

* Succeeding in Reading? Dep. Of Education and Science, 2005

Talk, Read, Write....

Young Children



“ There is a clear link between the extent of Education resources in the home (such as encyclopaedia or books) and pupils' scores on the reading test.”*
















TIPPERARY
Libraries


CASHEL CAMPUS
Johnson-Johnson

Parents and Reading

- ★ Read for yourself – Your child is more likely to read if you do too.
- ★ Reading aloud to children shows them that you think reading is important. So continue to read even when they can read themselves.
- ★ Some children prefer listening as a way of learning. Talk to your child: ask their opinion, give verbal instructions. This gives a child confidence to read aloud.
- ★ Pick books that are interesting to your child.
- ★ For family reading, read aloud the same book if possible but if age gaps determine a different time to be given to each child and their book, then so be it.
- ★ As a parent or carer, reading aloud doesn't always come naturally, so give yourself a chance to improve with practice too.
- ★ Create opportunities for a child to read by themselves (even if this means only turning the page) – this can be whilst in the car, while you are preparing dinner etc.
- ★ Don't force a child to read. The key is to create opportunities for books and reading in your child's life.
- ★ A father's early involvement with books and reading can do much to elevate books to at least the same status as sports in a boy's estimation.
- ★ If you don't feel confident with your reading abilities encourage grandparents, siblings, friends etc. to read or create opportunities for reading in their homes. Contact local VEC for help with reading and writing. Also, read your child's book first and look up any words you don't know, be prepared.
- ★ Reluctant readers or very active children frequently find it difficult to just sit and listen. Paper, crayons and pencils allow them to keep their hands busy while listening. (You doodle while talking on the telephone, don't you?)
- ★ Paired reading can help your child's confidence. Let the child choose the book. At first, you both read aloud together. When the child is ready, they carry on reading alone. If they don't know a word, you say it for them and both of you continue to read together until they are ready to read alone again.
- ★ Talk to your child's teacher if you are worried about their reading

How to Help your child to read

-  When reading longer books, make sure to leave it at a point in the story that keeps the child wondering what happens next. Use a Bookmark.
-  Follow through with your reading – don't leave a child hanging 3 or 4 days between chapters and expect them to still be interested.
-  Give a child time to settle. Talk about what happens at the end of the last chapter and about a character or storyline, once settled start reading a new part.
-  Older children often like books by the same author. Google the author and let the child read about the author's background.
-  Select books that are the right level for your child but occasionally read above their intellectual level to challenge their minds.
-  Answer your child's question, even if it interrupts the story and talk as you read about the story, pictures etc.
-  Allow an older child to practise their reading skills by reading to younger children.
-  Read longer books to your child. This helps memory skills.
-  Be Positive – Give praise for even the smallest achievement and concentrate on enjoyment and reading for pleasure.
-  Explore the cover of the book and the title before starting to read the text.
-  Look through the book and talk about interesting pictures or expand on words, letters or numbers they spot.
-  As your child reads more difficult books, it can be helpful to use the 'before, during and after' way of reading to help them.
 - Before – Look at picture for clues and talk about word meanings
 - During – Try to work out new words but keep reading
 - After – Talk about what made it a good story and any parts your child found difficult.
-  Ask your child to read shopping lists, recipes for you or instructions on games.
-  When a child becomes a confident reader they may want to read silently.