



Parentzone

SCOTLAND

Fun ideas to encourage  
good reading habits

# Primary

- ✔ Visit the library regularly. Let your child choose their own book from the relevant section and use their own library card.
- ✔ Pick books that are at the level your child is able to read, and use newly learned words in interesting sentences.
- ✔ Show your child how much you enjoy reading (even if it's a newspaper) and let them see you use a dictionary.
- ✔ Read different types of books to let your child experience different kinds of language.
- ✔ Talk about the story, using the pictures. Include the characters, the setting and the plot (books don't need to have words in order to tell a story).
- ✔ Talk about words that are the same but have different meanings (jam goes on your toast, as well as meaning cars stuck in traffic).
- ✔ Give your child time (10 seconds) to sound out words they don't recognise straight away.
- ✔ When you talk to your child, use some interesting words and talk about what they mean. Try changing the first letter in a word to make a new word.
- ✔ Ask your child to help you write the shopping list and match it to items in the shop.
- ✔ Use personal experiences as opportunities for you and your child to notice words in your environment (for example shops, street names).
- ✔ Play fun games with cards (Top Trumps, Pairs, Snap) and encourage your child to read out the rules for favourite games.
- ✔ Take turns to read aloud at story time and be an enthusiastic listener when your child reads aloud to you.
- ✔ Have a special place to keep your books at home and a special time to read them.
- ✔ Take a book everywhere you go and make up stories as you travel, with each of you adding a new line.