



Tips encouraging 8- 11 year olds to read

Ideas for sharing books in the
home

Age 8-11

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Book Trust**
inspiring readers and writers

Whether your child is a keen or reluctant reader, the tips below can help you encourage a lifelong love of reading. Remember, the key is not to force it too much: this will really turn children off. Make sure that reading is seen as an enjoyable, relaxing activity: this is the first step in encouraging any young reader. Remember, reading is for entertainment and enjoyment!

If they don't want to read, find out why

Sounds simple, but it'll really help you decide what approach to take. If they're a confident reader, then it's possible that they just haven't liked the books they've read over the last while. If they're lacking in confidence, they might need some quick reads to boost their reading self-esteem. Children who aren't confident readers might sometimes not want to admit this, but a quick check with their teacher can give you a clear picture of how they're getting on as readers.

Look for books based on movies and computer games

If you've been caught up in a good story, you don't want it to end! So if your child has enjoyed the storyline of a movie or computer game, investigate whether there are books based on it. It can be easier to get them interested in something they're already familiar with.

Don't be fussy about what they read

Here's the key: reading is a habit, and as long as they're in the habit of picking up something to read, it doesn't really matter what they're reading. So if they're reading magazines, great – this can lead to further reading if you can establish what they're interested in.

Also, remember that they need to see reading as a fun thing to do. Don't worry if you feel that their personal reading isn't challenging them – school takes care of that. Don't force them to read anything – that's a sure way to associate reading with pressure.

Try some quick reads

If your child isn't so confident at reading, it will boost their confidence to finish a book. Publisher [Barrington Stoke](#) specialises in quick, super-readable books, so why not check them out to see if there's something your child might like?

Speak to your local librarian

Children's librarians are hugely enthusiastic and they are fountains of knowledge about the world of children's books. Go and visit yours and see if they can point you in the direction of something your child will like.

Make sure they see you reading

If your child sees you reading, then that lets them know that you find reading enjoyable and worthwhile. It's not guaranteed to get them reading, but it certainly sends out the right message. And if you're reading something you think your child

might like, leave it lying around so they can see it: autobiographies are always good for piquing curiosity.

Be patient

Remember that the right book *is* out there. Whether its graphic novels, non-fiction, choose your own adventure books, how-to books or something else, there really is something for everyone in the world of books. Be patient, don't force it, and you'll find something that interests them. There are lots of great places to start looking – here are a few:

- LoveReading4Kids website: www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk
- World Book Day parents' book finder: www.worldbookday.com/ideas/parents
- Common Sense Media: www.common Sense media.org

Watch an Authors Live event together

Watching their favourite authors can be really exciting for children, so why not watch one of Scottish Book Trust's fabulous Authors Live events together? All of our events are available to watch on demand, and we have over 60 to choose from. You'll find lots of top names, from *Tom Gates* author Liz Pichon to Michael Morpurgo, David Walliams and Jacqueline Wilson: www.scottishbooktrust.com/watch-on-demand

Find out if your child's school is taking part in the First Minister's Reading Challenge

The First Minister's Reading Challenge is a project which aims to provide children with a wide range of recommendations and inspire them to read. Speak to your child's teacher to find out if their school is taking part, and if they are then you can encourage your child to fill out their reading journal and visit the local library to see if it has any of the books on the FMRC list. Check out the website – it's mainly aimed at teachers and librarians, but you'll get access to our brilliant list of 100 books to start your child's reading journey: readingchallenge.scot/

Encourage your child to visit author and publisher websites

Many authors have fantastic websites full of activities and games based on their work to encourage your child to enjoy reading on many different levels. Some popular series of books have dedicated websites. Some of our favourites include:

Scream Street by Tommy Donbavand www.screamstreet.co.uk

Invisible Fiends by Barry Hutchison www.invisiblefiends.com

Horrid Henry by Francesca Simon www.horridhenry.co.uk

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer www.artemisfowl.com

Jacqueline Wilson www.jacquelinewilson.co.uk