



Ten Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Reading is an essential skill which unlocks so many other areas of the curriculum. This year at Godinton, we want to encourage all our children to read more, to share books with adults at home and to gain enjoyment from the things they read. To help develop your child's reading skills – use the ideas and information in this handout to create a positive and exciting reading culture at home.

1. Encourage your child to read

Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination and has educational benefits too. Just a few minutes a day can have a big impact on children of all ages. Every child at primary school should read at home every day. Make reading feel like a treat and encourage it as an alternative to tech activities (watching YouTube, gaming etc)

2. Read aloud regularly

Try to read to your child every day. It's a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading them and poring over the pictures. Try adding funny voices to bring characters to life. Even older children will enjoy sharing books or stories with you.

3. Encourage reading choice

Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time – it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.

4. Read together

Choose a favourite time to read together as a family and enjoy it. This might be everyone reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time, or getting your children to read to each other. This time spent reading together can be relaxing for all. Seeing parents reading at home can inspire children to do the same.

5. Create a comfortable environment

Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently – or together.



6. Make use of your local library

Local libraries provide the opportunity to borrow all sorts of different books which you can take home and enjoy. They also offer brilliant online materials, including audiobooks and eBooks and often host a range of events.

7. Talk about books

This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Show curiosity about what you're going to read: 'This book looks interesting. It's about an angry dragon. I wonder how angry he gets...' Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything.

8. Bring reading to life

You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Would you recommend it to a friend? Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.

9. Make reading active

Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you're reading. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions. Get children to write their own stories and comics and read them to you.

10. Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them

You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. If they have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) then short, creative activities may be the way to get them most interested. If English is an additional language, encourage reading in a child's first language, as well as in English. What matters most is that they enjoy it!

