



Reading for Pleasure

Reading with our children has huge benefits: it supports learning, builds our relationship, boosts self-esteem, and can instil a lifelong love of books.

Why it is worth making time

It is worth asking how much time we spend reading with our children compared with screen time. None of these things are bad in themselves, but redressing the balance a little can make a big difference. Let's make time to read together.

Think about the purpose

Sometimes we read purely for pleasure, sometimes more intentionally: listening to a child sound out words, asking questions to predict what happens next, taking turns reading a page or sentence each, or spotting familiar words together.

Repetition is not wasted time

Children often love hearing the same book again and again. It may feel dull to us, but repetition brings comfort and teaches story structure. Even before children can read every word, retelling a story from the pictures helps them become storytellers themselves.

Different children enjoy different types of books, factual, fantasy, poetry, fairy stories, so it is worth exploring what interests your child, or swapping ideas with other parents.

Model reading everywhere

Reading a recipe, road signs, or the back of a cereal packet all count. If children see that reading, on paper or on a screen, is something we genuinely enjoy, they are more likely to value it too.