



# Encourage a love of reading

Research conducted by Explore Learning discovered that one in three people in the UK choose to read daily. The research showed 39% read once a week and just 8% say they never do at all. Reading is a huge part of life for many people in the UK and there is so much to be gained from enjoying reading as a family.

By encouraging your child to delve into the world of books you are introducing ideas and stories for all over the globe, whilst opening up their imagination to lands and planets that are out of this world. By reading they learn about other cultures, develop language skills and enjoy themselves.

Here are a few tips on how we can encourage children to jump head first into the wonderful world of reading:

- **Embrace your inner actor.** When reading together become the characters in the book. Using different voices helps to make stories come to life. Can you or your child do the best robot/cowboy/fairy voice? If your child is finding it challenging to do this, then drama clubs can be great to bring them out of their shell.
- **Start early.** Read to your child even if they are too young to read themselves. They will get into the habit of having books around, they'll enjoy listening to stories and it's a great bond building activity. It will help them to be exposed to lots of different words and it's an enjoyable way to get children into a bedtime routine.
- **Read together.** With younger children it's natural to read to them or to listen to them read, but as children get older we often expect them to read by themselves. Whilst independent reading is great, why not set half an hour aside where everyone reads as a family? This demonstrates to children that you enjoy reading too. You can all discuss your books and what you think will happen next. Why not pick a word out that you don't understand and find out what it means? Then see who in the family can then use the new words you've learnt the most in a week?
- **Always have a book to hand.** If you have a book in your bag for you and your children, then you can take any opportunity to read a few pages. Having to wait for a late running appointment? Hand out the books. Are the children bored on a train? Out come the books and boredom is averted.
- **Support your local library.** Libraries are great for allowing children to select a book they are interested in, they can also try out lots of different books and swap them if they don't enjoy one (without costing you the expense of the books!). You'll often find activities and workshops at that library which allow your child to discuss stories with other children, which is a great way to encourage reading for pleasure.
- **Reward with a book.** Do you use incentives to encourage good behaviour? If so, try using books or comics as a reward, this will allow children to see stories as a great thing and enjoy showing off the collection they've accumulated. At Explore Learning we have a prize cabinet full of books and they are always a hit with our members when they choose their rewards.

Every child is different so try out the various tips to find out what works for your child. If you need any help supporting your child to read, then Explore Learning can help. You can find out more about how we can benefit your family and book a free trial at [www.explorelearning.co.uk](http://www.explorelearning.co.uk)