

10 Ways to engage your child in reading

1. **Develop their confidence and self-esteem** – ask them to help you read a map, figure out something on the internet, to tell them some info from a poster, leaflet or newspaper etc.
2. **Identify their skills and interests** – use your child's skills and interests to find suitable reading materials that will engage them.
3. **Set a good example and be a reading role model** – Let your child see you reading at regular times. It is likely that your child will copy your behaviours and you can then initiate conversations about what you are reading. This conversations are particularly effective with newspapers and magazines and you may share common interests.
4. **Encourage reading amongst siblings** – perhaps they would enjoy reading a popular book together!
5. **Don't be alarmed if your child finds a book boring** – allow them to express their opinions and use this as an opportunity to discuss why and what else they would find preferable.
6. **Provide opportunities for your child to be around books** – trips to the library can be a great way to have these conversations with your child, whilst also taking an interest in what they are reading.
7. **Swap the screen for some bedtime reading** - it has been scientifically proven that those who stare at their phone/laptop/television screens before sleeping have poorer quality of sleep. Swap it for 30 mins of reading and your child should feel far more rested.
8. **Ensure that there is a space that your child can use for reading** – this needs to be quiet and relaxing.
9. **Take an interest in the topics being learnt at school** – this may lead to wider reading online or during your visits to the local library.
10. **Discuss their Accelerated Reader books, quizzes and progress** – at home rewards, as well as the ones at school, will encourage your child as they are able to receive praise in multiple ways!

