

HOW CAN YOU ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILDREN TO READ?

1. Set an example – let them see you reading for pleasure.
2. Furnish your home with a variety of reading materials – leave books, magazines and newspapers around. Check to see what disappears for a clue as to what interests your child.
3. Give them an opportunity to choose their own books – browse in a book store or library when out together – go your separate ways and make your own selections – giving a book token is a nice way of saying ‘you choose’.
4. Build on their interests – look for books or articles that feature their favourite sports team, rock stars, hobbies or TV shows – give a gift subscription to a special interest magazine.
5. View pleasure reading as a value in itself – almost everything your youngsters read – even comics- helps build reading skills.
6. Read some books written for youngsters – young adult or middle years novels can give you valuable insights into the concerns and pressures felt by teenagers. You may find these books provide a neutral ground on which to talk about sensitive subjects.
7. Make reading aloud a natural part of family life – share an article from the newspaper, a letter, or a random page from a reference book or magazine – without turning it into a lesson.
8. Acknowledge your child’s maturing interests – look for ways to acknowledge the emerging adult in your youngsters by suggesting some adult reading you think they can handle.
9. Keep the big picture in mind – for all sorts of reasons, some children go through periods without showing much interest in reading – don’t panic – use some of these tips to try to rekindle their interest!