

Grow your own knowledge...

Find blogs and websites which share books for young children such as The Bottom Shelf <https://thebottomshelf.edublogs.org/> and Children's Books Daily <https://childrensbooksdaily.com/blog/>

Subscribe to newsletters that will keep you abreast of what's new.

Talk to your school's teacher librarian - they are reading experts and even if your child is not at their school yet, you might be able to borrow from their collection.

Listen to what other parents are sharing with their children for ideas of what to share with yours.

Join your local library for an endless supply of books for free

Make your child their own special library bag, not just for library visits but for whenever they're taking a book with them

Know the authors and illustrators who write for your child's age group

Look for books with

- topics that mirror the experiences of childhood albeit through animal or toy characters
- have rhythm, rhyme and repetition that encourage your child to join in the reading
- illustrations that help make the meaning of the text clear.

Read...

- *Reading Magic: how your child can learn to read before school—and other read-aloud miracles*, Mem Fox (Pan Macmillan)
- *The Reading Bug—and how you can help your child to catch it* Paul Jennings (Penguin)
- *Rocket your Child into Reading* Jackie French (Angus & Robertson)

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The Bottom Shelf <https://thebottomshelf.edublogs.org/>

"When we take the time to read aloud to the children in our lives, we bond them close in a secret society associated with the books we've shared."

Mem Fox, author of *Possum Magic*

Reading with your child is one of the most important factors in developing lifelong learners and lovers of reading. There is a vital link to between reading ability and the success of students. The example you set, the priority you place on the importance of reading, and the bond you create lasts a lifetime.

Use these tips to start your child on their reading journey and share

Surround your child with books.

Read at least three stories aloud every day from birth—a favourite, a familiar and a first-read.

Show enthusiasm, expression and emotion. You are setting an example of the sounds and rhythms of our language

Plan for occasions when your child might become bored, anxious, irritable, tired or disruptive and have a book in your bag.

Pull the curtains on the day with a regular bedtime story so your child goes to sleep knowing they are loved and safe.

Share stories that you enjoy reading because children are very adept at detecting reluctance and boredom.

Choose picture books with well written stories, rich vocabulary and appealing pictures. Look for rhythm, rhyme and repetition.

Focus your child's thoughts on what the story will be about by discussing the cover and the pictures and thinking about what might happen.

Encourage your child to join in the rhyme, the rhythm and the repetition.

Talk about the story and what happened in it.

Ask them what they think will happen next.

Reflect on what happened in the story and whether it was enjoyable and worth reading again

Read it again and again and again if they ask for it.

Look for other books by the same author if your child really enjoyed the story.

Join your local library - there are riches galore!

Read your own books in front of your child so they see that you enjoy reading too and value it as a worthwhile activity.

Treasure this special time with your child—it will pass very quickly.

Talk —Help them build a wide and varied vocabulary, hear the rhymes and rhythms of the language and confidence with a range of sentence structures.

Listen - The skills they use putting together ideas, constructing sentences and ordering their thoughts are also critical in reading.

Praise - Acknowledge what they can do rather than picking on what they can't. Children need encouragement because they are doing the best they can.

Buy books - It shows you value reading. Choose books that will appeal to your individual children and take them with you when you do. Let them choose with you, or allow them to choose books from the school book clubs.

Give books as presents to your child and others. It reinforces that books and reading are valuable and valued.

Read - When your children see you enjoying reading, they follow your example.

Visit your local library regularly - It's free. Enrol your children and make a visit a regular routine.

Share - Have a family reading time - Put aside a regular time when all the family enjoy reading. and share what they are reading

Cook Read the recipe together and share the results.

Read the TV guide - Discuss the options, and plan your viewing.

Play a game – Whether it's a board game or digital, there are instructions to read and understand as you play.

Go shopping - Read the road signs, notices the labels on packets. Give them a list of things to look for.

Write letters and emails - Write thank you letters or party invitations together. Encourage them to write to Gran and Grandad, Father Christmas or friends who have moved.

Make something - Figure out the instructions together. Discuss their meaning and sequence.