



## HELPING YOUR CHILD TO READ

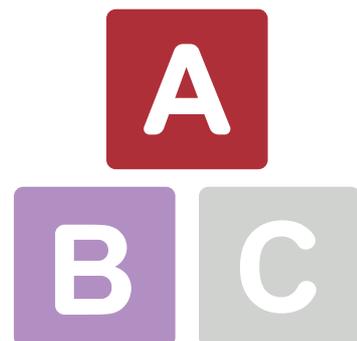
### *Reading together*

Reading together is a valuable thing to do. Reading increases your child's vocabulary, expands your child's understanding of the world, and gives them confidence when using language. Reading is also an important way to make the link between spoken words and written words.

#### **Here are some general tips:**

- » Visit your local library to select and read books together, and to attend story time sessions. Library story time sessions are a great way to share the joy of reading with your child in a group setting.
- » Encourage your child to select books, magazines, catalogues, or multimedia stories according to their interests.
- » Set aside time for reading every day. Reading before bedtime is a good habit to get into.
- » Position yourself so your child can see the words and the pictures.
- » Run your finger across the page with each word to help your child identify and remember words and sounds.
- » Share wordless picture books to develop imagination, ideas and vocabulary by naming and describing things in pictures.

- » Look for rhyme, rhythm or repetition in books. This will help develop your child's love of language.
- » When reading to your child, read stories with expression, or try putting on the voices of characters. This will help make reading fun.
- » Point out important features about a book – for example, the words and pictures, the front cover, the spine, the contents page, or the title.
- » Explore words using a dictionary.
- » Encourage your child to take over some or all of the reading if they feel confident.
- » If your child is confident with their reading, allow them to read without interruption. Fluency is gained with confidence. Mistakes can be discussed after a block of reading, or in subsequent readings.
- » Allow your child to read at their own pace. Model good pace when you read to them.
- » Give your child the opportunity to re-read books.
- » Encourage your child to join the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge, which runs each year from March to September. Participating early childhood services and schools will register your child – otherwise you can register your child at: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/prc>
- » Join the 1000 Books Before School program at your local library: <https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/live-learn/1000-books-school>.



### **Some other activities to develop your discussion:**

- » Read several articles together on the same issue to get different opinions. Then discuss the different opinions.
- » Have a debate on a topic, with you and your child taking different sides of the issue.
- » Download and listen to podcasts on an issue, and discuss.
- » Discuss different "What if?" scenarios. This will help develop your child's problem solving and imagination.



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### **Here are some tips to encourage reading:**

- » It is recommended that you continue to read together in the later primary years, even if your child is reading independently.
- » Take your child to the local library often so they can choose, borrow and renew books. Taking your child to the library at the beginning of school holidays encourages weeks of independent reading.
- » Encourage your child to borrow from their school library as well.
- » If your child likes an author, find another book or a series of books by the same author.

- » Encourage your child to read about their favourite author or illustrator at their website.
- » Introduce your child to read different genres such as fantasy, science-fiction, action and adventure.
- » Introduce your child to reading different types of texts, such as poems, music lyrics, and short plays.
- » Encourage your child to read non-fiction. The newspaper or an online encyclopedia might be a good start, but your child might also be interested in history books or autobiographies of their favourite sportsperson or celebrity.
- » Encourage your child to use a dictionary to look up words they might not understand.
- » Allow your child to play age-appropriate video games that require reading.
- » Encourage your child to join the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge, which runs each year from March to September. Participating schools will register your child – otherwise you can register your child at: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/prc>
- » See also "Creating a literacy-rich home" later in this section.

