

Supporting teenagers' reading at home

You may well already be doing all you can to support your child's progress in reading, but you might also find the list of suggestions below helpful.

First, have (another?) conversation with them about their reading.

- What are they reading?
- How do they feel about it?
- How much reading do they currently do at home? (Honestly!)
- Have their reading habits changed at all recently?
- Would they like you to be more involved in their reading, by listening to them, sharing a book with them or just talking to them about their thoughts and opinions? (You might be surprised at their response here!)

Ways to support / improve their progress:

- Encourage or enable more frequent opportunities to read. Suggest 20 mins before bedtime. Aim to read alongside them or listen to them read sometimes.
- Help to guide their choices if you think it's needed. Consider taking them to a public library or bookshop. Suggest book swaps with friends & family. If you can, give them a book token. One of the most important factors in reading success is **pleasure**. For some, the tricky thing is finding something pleasurable to read, since there's a vast choice available. Try not to criticise their choices, nag or scold them (if possible!) Contact us at school if you would like more help with this bit.
- Discuss their opinions and interpretations of what they read – get them talking about it! Share your own thoughts about what you/they are reading.
- Keep a key vocab. log, using a dictionary / thesaurus to check meanings of new words.
- You might like to read some age-appropriate current affairs at www.theday.co.uk. (Username: GreatTorrington password: theday).

Why reading and sharing stories matters

1. **It's the most important thing you can do to help your child succeed.**
Research evidence shows that your involvement in your child's reading and learning is more important than anything else in helping them to fulfil their potential.
2. **Books contain new words that will help build your child's language and understanding.**
Children who are familiar with books and stories before they start school are better prepared to cope with the demands of formal literacy teaching. By continuing to provide a challenging 'diet' of reading material throughout their childhood, their vocabularies will expand! This continues to be important throughout a child's education.
3. **Reading together is fun and helps build relationships.** Reading with children, or talking about what they have read, is a wonderful way to show that it is an important and valued way to spend free time.
4. **The impact lasts a lifetime. Readers are more confident and have greater job opportunities.**
5. **Children learn by example, so if they see you reading, they are likely to want to join in.**

Why dads should be involved

Research shows that when dad gets involved, their sons' **and** daughters' achievement is enhanced. Dads and other male carers are just as important as mums in encouraging children to enjoy reading - perhaps even more so, since reading is often thought of by boys as a "girly" thing to do. Dads and other male family members are boys' main role models in life. Seeing them enjoying reading will help boys to realise that they too can enjoy reading - they might just need help in finding the right thing to read. Given that girls outperform boys in literacy tests at all ages throughout school, and that boys are much more likely to say they don't enjoy reading at all, this is particularly important.

Taken from: www.literacytrust.org.uk