

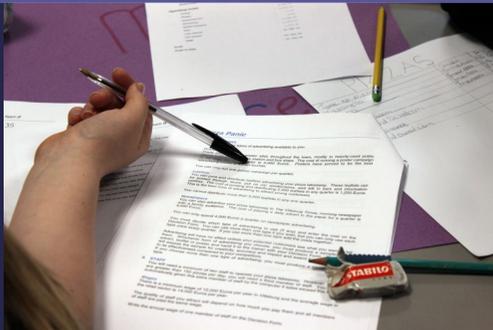
ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO WRITE

Make writing an enjoyable, positive experience for your child

Your child needs plenty of practice in writing for a variety of purposes. Here are some things you can do to encourage your child to write on a regular basis:

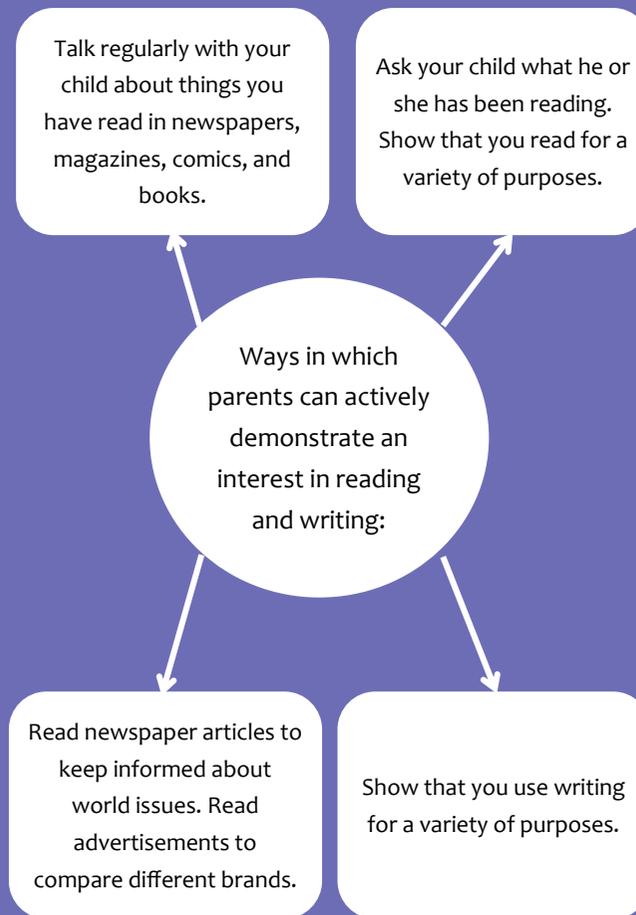
- Make sure your child sees you reading and writing, for example, re-reading a letter as you write, preparing a grocery list.
- Look for opportunities for purposeful writing at home, and encourage your child to read and write letters, emails, lists, messages, postcards, thank-you notes, etc.
- Encourage your child to keep a scrapbook of family holidays and to write captions or brief descriptions underneath the photographs.
- Provide interesting stationery, journals, pens, and stickers to encourage writing
- Encourage your child to write letters/emails to obtain free materials that are linked to his or her interests.

Don't forget to help them check their writing!



BE A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL

As their children's first teachers and role models, parents strive to provide consistent, positive examples for their children. Your involvement and support as a parent can influence your child's attitudes and his or her interest and achievement in reading and writing.

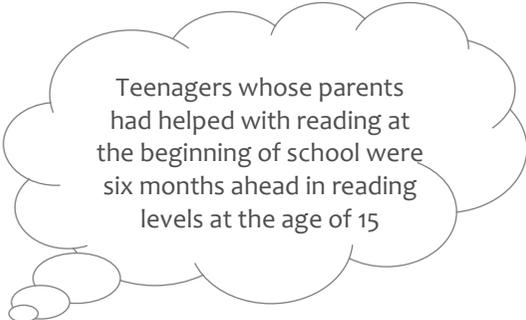


HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH LITERACY IN SECONDARY SCHOOL



TALK WITH YOUR CHILD

Research shows that listening and speaking to others are the foundation for developing thinking, reading, and writing skills.



Teenagers whose parents had helped with reading at the beginning of school were six months ahead in reading levels at the age of 15

- Talk with your child frequently about what he or she is reading.
- Have your child retell the main parts of the text. Ask questions to encourage him or her to provide details and help organise thoughts.
- Talk with your child about such things as movies, television programmes, songs, and plays.
- Be positive and encourage your child to share his or her opinions and feelings.
- Help your child understand what they read:
 - **it is important that your child not only read the words in a text but also understands the meaning of what he or she is reading.**

Show interest in what your child is saying by being a good listener!

MAKE READING ENJOYABLE

Be a Reciprocal Reader!

You can help your child enjoy reading and become a proficient reader by helping him or her find interesting things to read.

Ask questions about the text:

CLARIFY vocabulary:

1. Do you know what this word means?
2. Does this word sound familiar?
3. Can you guess what it means if we re-read the sentence?

PREDICT:

1. What do you think might happen next?
2. How do you know?
3. What do you think the consequences might be?

SUMMARISE :

1. What are the most important points in the story/text?
2. What is the main idea?
3. Can you summarise in less than fifteen words?

QUESTION (reading between the lines):

1. Why does the character feel like this?
2. Why did this happen?
3. How does this make you feel?
4. Why do you think the writer describes it like this?

- Read with your child. Talk about what you are reading and ask questions together - for example, compare characters in the story with people you both know.
- Make sure that you have books, magazines, and other reading materials on hand for long car rides or train trips.
- Browse together in libraries and book stores. Look at interactive CD-ROMs and the Internet as well as books.
- Encourage your child to look at the graphic features in reading materials, such as photos, illustrations, and charts. Help your child understand how they are used and what their purposes are.
- Explain vocabulary they don't know and model how to use it.

Try reading these:

- fiction that focuses on action or plot
- books in a series that allow the reader to connect with the characters
- science fiction or fantasy
- newspapers, magazines, and materials with both print and pictures, such as comic books
- things that they can read with others - such as jokes, game scores, or brain teasers