

Supporting Readers

Reading is the greatest indicator of future success in children. It is also incredibly enjoyable and beneficial to every aspect of their academic, emotional, and mental development. Everyone knows that reading is incredibly important! However, it can be hard to get children to read at home. Here are 6 steps to create a reading culture in your home.



RELATIONSHIPS



Reading is a great way to develop relationships. Make time to read together, discuss what you have read, and celebrate reading. Consider listening to audiobooks as a family, reading to a sibling, and promote the rich conversations you have about books. Enthusiasm for reading is vital: children who enjoy reading are statistically much stronger readers.

ROUTINES



Children now receive the majority of their reading from in game communications (video games), and social media messages. So, turn off the Wi-Fi and TV, and make time for reading. Remember, twenty minutes a night is all it takes to maximise academic progress. Set page or time targets to fit in with your home schedule.

RESPONSES



Book talk is an essential part of the reading process. Check in with your child about how their book is going and what is happening. Consider rewards for page progress and celebrate every book your child reads. "Tell me about..." "Are you enjoying..." and "Do you think that..." for example.

RESEARCH



Find the niche! Whatever it is your child enjoys, search for the book, series, or genre to keep them entertained. There IS a book out there for everyone! Look in local libraries, speak to their teachers or other parents, check bookstore websites, and create a buzz about reading with your child related to other topics they enjoy.

REFLECTIONS



Reading is a journey of discovery, which means children are constantly discovering things about what they enjoy and whether books are the right difficulty/interest level for them. Encourage your child to pursue what they enjoy! Work out what motivates your child to read and bottle that magic!

RESILIENCE



Finally, encourage resilience and consistency. If your child doesn't read one night, encourage them and support them to get back into the routine. In a world of distractions, reading can fall down the hierarchy! Encourage returning to an old favourite or begin a brand-new book - whatever it takes to get back on the reading journey.