



10 Top Tips to support reading at home

“If you are going to get anywhere in life, you have to read a lot of books.” – Roald Dahl

1. Encourage your child to read

Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination, and has educational benefits too. Just a few minutes a day can have a big impact on children of all ages.

2. Read aloud regularly

Try to read to your child everyday. It's a special time to snuggle up with a book and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading them and looking at the pictures. Try adding funny and silly voices to bring the characters to life. Your child is never too old for a snuggle and story.



3. Encourage reading choice

Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time – it doesn't have to be a book. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, road signs, recipes and so much more.

4. Read together

Choose a favourite time to



read together as a family and enjoy it – these moments are special. You could read the same book together, read different things at the same time, or read to each other. The time spent reading together is relaxing for you all.

5. Create a comfortable environment

Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently – or together.



6. Make us of a local library

Lancaster Library is open Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm, with a later opening until 7pm every Wednesday. Are you a member? It's free to join and there are lots of reading challenges and competitions you can enter throughout the year to explore and read a wide variety of books, win prizes, and achieve certificates. The library also offers brilliant online materials, including audiobooks and eBooks to borrow.

7. Talk about books

This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable for your family. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggest what the book could be about. Then talk

about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything.



8. Bring reading to life

Try cooking a recipe you've read together. Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read. Use puppets to retell the story or you could make Top Trump cards for the characters in your book and play the game as a family.

9. Make reading active

Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects, and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you are reading. Try creating your very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.

10. Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them

You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. **What matters most is that children of all ages enjoy reading and they need your encouragement and enthusiasm as a family for this to happen.**

