

## Ways for parents to encourage more reading

We are frequently asked how parents can encourage their sons and daughters to read.

People who read generally enjoy talking about their reading to other people. This applies very much to young people, as they develop the 'reading habit'. Most readers like to swap their ideas about good reads and young people are no different. It really helps if they know that other people at home are interested in their reading.

You can let them know that you want to hear about what they're finding out - without pushing it too far - and mention some of your own 'best reads'. Here are some ideas to help you.

- ⊗ Talk about their favourite read(s).
- ⊗ What did they like about it?
- ⊗ See if there is a book they can really 'escape' into.
- ⊗ Talk about how 'portable' reading is and how useful it is when they say they're 'bored' .
- ⊗ Remind them that all reading is good reading.
- ⊗ Encourage them when they're really enjoying a collection or set of books.
- ⊗ Pass on the excitement about your own reading - any reading that you enjoy!
- ⊗ See which of you is first to read a new book that comes out.
- ⊗ Let them see you reading.
- ⊗ Visit the library or bookshop together and help them to select a book.
- ⊗ Encourage them to read to younger children.

You can get advice about suitable reading materials from your local Public Library, your child's English Teacher and websites such as [www.sla.org.uk/bib-titles.php](http://www.sla.org.uk/bib-titles.php)

We have recommended booklists and would welcome your recommendations to share with other readers too!