

# READING AT HOME

## a guide 'where to start'

### UNDER 3 YEARS OLD

- Follow your child's lead as much as possible and allow your child choice about which play experiences and activities, they want to participate in.
- Give your child as much or as little time as they need for each learning experience.
- Read stories with your child, making sure they can see the pictures and following the words with your finger, making them sweep left to right. Ask them 'What do you think might happen next? Make the noises in the book? Discuss the pictures.
- Make a collage based on the setting of one of their favourite stories.
- You might get them to draw a picture of their favourite part of the book.

### 3-5 YEARS OLD

- Allow your child choice about which, and the timing of the play experiences and activities, they want to participate in.
- Read stories with your child. Talk about the Author and Illustrator. Point to the words as you read. Get them to attempt to read to you (only if they show interest). Ask them to retell the story you, start with what happened on a page and then build up to the whole story.
- Encourage your child to illustrate their favourite part of the book. Help them to notice characters features by pointing these out, begin to discuss and brainstorm describing words.
- Share your favourite childhood stories together, tell them why it was your favourite.

### 6-8 YEARS OLD

- Read to/with your child DAILY
- Point out important features about a book Eg. the words, and pictures, the front cover, the Author and Illustrator, the spine, the contents page and the title.
- Encourage your child to predict what will happen in the story. Why do they think this?
- Explore new or interesting words using a dictionary.
- If your child is confident in their reading, allow them to read without interruption. Fluency is gained with confidence.
- Model using different voices when reading to your child. Point out why you chose to use 'that' voice. For example the character was sad, so I used my sad voice.
- On completion discuss the book. Did they like it? Recap what happened? Ask clarifying questions. Give it a rating out of 10.

### 9+ YEARS OLD

- Encourage your child to read daily. Model this behaviour.
- Discuss news and current events together. Subscribe to a 'kids news' outlet like [Kidsnews](#) or [Time for Kids](#). Ask questions like 'What do you think caused the event?' Etc.
- If your child has a preferred Author help them find another of their books or series.
- Help your child to use a dictionary to look up words they don't understand.
- If you can, try to read the books with your child (or before them) so you can have deep and meaningful discussions around the plot, characters, messages and your personal opinions.
- High Schools tend to use 'Text Ebooks' get your child familiar with these by borrowing Ebooks from your local library. Podcasts and Audiobooks are also a great resource.

### TIPS FOR ANY AGE

- Visit your local library often, encourage your child to pick new books, as well as familiar ones. You might also borrow magazines or use their online services to access audiobooks or download eBooks.
- Make reading part of your daily routine.
- Model Reading yourself, be it a book, the newspaper, magazines, signs, recipes etc.
- Make Reading in your home fun, use funny voices, share stories, act parts out etc.
- Encourage your child to read BOTH Non-Fiction and Fiction books.