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Back To School Campaign - Sharing Books
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Here are some fun ideas for sharing books.

Read **different** kinds of books - fact and fiction.
Read **exciting** books.
Read books that the child has an **interest** in.

The way in which you choose books can have an impact on your child's enthusiasm.
Choosing books together can be fun and promote interest.
Before reading anything, look at the book cover and discuss what the book may be about.
Ask your child if they can guess what the story is about. What do you think might
happen? What will happen next?

Let the child **hold** the book and turn the pages. Talk about the pictures. They may tell you
more about the story line. Let the child **read** to you, describing what is happening in the
pictures.
When you have read the story, let the child **retell** it in their own words.
Don't worry about reading the story over and over again, it helps the child to **remember**
the story and words.

Readability

There are formulae for calculating the readability of texts according to word length,
sentence length and complexity. Computer programs, e.g. Word, give readability scores
according to those criteria.
However, there is a simple method called the Five Finger Test:
1. Choose a book you like.
2. Open it in the middle.
3. Try to find a page without pictures.
4. Start reading at the top and go on till you reach a word you do not know.
5. Put your little finger on it.
6. Continue reading. Put a finger on each word you do not know.
7. If you run out of fingers before you get to the bottom the book is probably too difficult.

Making Books

Making books helps children understand how to use them - what is on the cover - which way up - which way words go - how diagrams, maps or pictures can help. This helps to encourage reading and writing as part of everyday life and makes it fun and multisensory. You could make books in different shapes, sizes and colours.
Consider writing books, stories, poems or plays.

Paired Reading

This is another way of helping a child learn to read. During Paired reading the adult and child read aloud together. Most children enjoy this. It builds confidence in their reading - without fear of failure. Paired reading allows children to concentrate on understanding and enjoying the story if they do not have to work so hard at sounding out the words.
There are different ways of supporting this. You and your child read the words out loud together. Try and make your speed fit with the way the child reads. If the child struggles with a word or says something incorrectly, supply the correct version. Do not let them struggle. Let the reader point to each word in turn or use a bookmarker if they want to. The reader may wish to read on their own at times. Let them do so and remain quiet whilst they do so. If the child struggles with a word, say it for them. Do not let them struggle. This all helps to improve their confidence.
Or the child may want to take it in turns with you to read. Keep up the pace of the reading. This will help to keep up the interest level.

Sources of Books

Dyslexic children need access to good literature and books with low reading age/high interest levels. The following publishers offer a range of titles with high interest flow level ability, contact them directly for their catalogues.

Ann Arbor Publishers L TO Tel. 01668214460.

Barrington Stoke Tel 0131 3154933.

Cambridge University Press publishes the Cambridge Reading scheme
Tel 01223 312 393.

Egmont Children's Books Tel 0171 761 3500.
Also from Next Generation. Tel 01823289559.

Harper Collins publish the Jet Series. Tel. 0181 741 7070.

Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre T el 01252 792 400.

Scholastic Children's Books Tel. 0171 421 9000.