



# Get them Reading!!

Every day we are told, “Read with your children” and “Encourage your child to read”, but how?

This booklet is to give you some simple ideas about how to get your child to read and enjoy it!

## All Reading is Reading

We use reading everyday, but our children often see it as a chore - something they are made to do in school, but definitely not fun.

Let your child choose what they read; just be there to guide them.

- **Cookery books** – Encourage your children to help out in the kitchen. Get them flicking through cookery books to choose what to have for dinner, or even let them research recipes on the internet. Let them be in charge of finding the ingredients in the supermarket.
- **TV Guide** – Get your child to circle all their favourite programmes in a TV guide. Find out: the time, the day and what the programme is about. You could even let them make a tv timetable showing what they get to watch.
- **Magazines** – There are magazines about everything: football, fashion, music, video games and cars, all full of information for your child to read. Think about getting them a subscription for Christmas or even a weekly/monthly amount to spend on a magazine of their choice (e.g £2.00 a week).
- **Comics/Graphic novels** – They might look easy, but they are just as hard to read as books, and often much more exciting! They can even collect the whole series.
- **Annuals** – Full of facts, activities, quizzes and posters; these are the perfect way to get your child to start reading about things they like.



- **Computer** – Your child is reading all the time on the computer - from using the internet to typing up homework. Encourage them to show you what they can do. You could even get them to research new films to watch as a family.
- **Need something a bit different?** – Barrington Stoke offers brilliant and exciting books for children. They are levelled by reading and interest age and cater for everyone. From gripping dramas to laugh-out-loud comedies, these books are the perfect way to show your child that there is a book out there that they will want to read.

### **Finding books too expensive?**

Buying books all the time can be very expensive; here are a few ideas about how to get your child books without spending a fortune.

- **Local Library** – Your local library is full of books perfect for your child. Ask your librarian for help or even asks your child's English teacher for advice on what your child can read. Don't forget that libraries now offer internet access and DVD rental.
- **Online shopping** – There are some excellent websites that sell great books and much cheaper prices.

[www.barringtonstoke.co.uk](http://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk)

[www.thebookpeople.co.uk](http://www.thebookpeople.co.uk)

[www.redhouse.co.uk](http://www.redhouse.co.uk)

Both these sites offer massive discounts on popular books as well as book collections.



## Spelling

We all struggle with spelling sometimes. So what can you do to help your child spell well?

At the back of this booklet you will find some spelling words to help your child with. Try getting them to read the words to you first and then have a go at spelling them. Get your child to point out words they are not sure of when they are reading and learn them together. Just writing down the word a few times and repeating the letters out loud can help the spelling stick in their mind. Help them to think of a sentence with the word in, and then write it out remembering to encourage them to use a capital letter and the beginning and a full stop at the end. Your child's English teacher may be able to provide more specific spelling targets for your child.

## Homework Help

- Set up a homework zone, somewhere quiet your child can do their homework without interruption.
- Make sure you have everything your child needs, e.g pens, pencils, ruler. Get your child to pick their own pens, pencil case and notebooks to make their work more exciting.
- Always have a dictionary and thesaurus to hand; you can find these cheaply in supermarkets. If your child does most of their homework on the computer, try using a Dictosaurus - a CD ROM containing a combined dictionary and thesaurus they can access while they work.
- Use the homework timetable at the back of this booklet. Fill in what homework your child has and when it is due. Keep it displayed somewhere prominent in the house e.g on fridge, so you know how much your child has to do and when.

Remember, even though your child may not want you to read to them anymore, they may still enjoy reading to you. When reading together, encourage them to tell you all about their favourite facts, re-tell their favourite stories' and describe their favourite characters, even drawing them if they prefer. Don't forget to tell them all about your favourite books and why you like them.



## Scrap Book

A scrap book is a great way for your child to bring together all the things that they love. Photos, magazine/newspaper cut outs, tickets from the cinema/concerts, drawings, good school reports.

This can be their own personal book that doesn't have to be neat, they can colour it in, cover it in stickers and posters, anything they want.

### Useful websites

[www.barringtonstoke.co.uk](http://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk)  
[www.redhouse.co.uk](http://www.redhouse.co.uk)  
[www.thebookpeople.co.uk](http://www.thebookpeople.co.uk)  
[www.literacytrust.org.uk](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk)  
[www.porthcommunityschool.com](http://www.porthcommunityschool.com)

### Want more ideas

Try '101 ways to get your child to read' – Patience Thomsom

### Useful Contacts

Porth County Community  
School  
Cemetery Road  
Porth  
CF39 OBS  
Tel: 01443 682137



Heolddu School  
Mountain Road  
Bargoed  
CF81 8XL  
Tel 01443 875531



Heolddu Comprehensive School  
Opportunity For All



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government