Fun ideas to encourage good reading habits

Visit the library regularly. Let your child choose their own book from the relevant section and use their own library card.

Pick books that are at the level your child is able to read, and use newly learned words in interesting sentences.

Show your child how much you enjoy reading (even if it’s a newspaper) and let them see you use a dictionary.

Read different types of books to let your child experience different kinds of language.

Talk about the story, using the pictures. Include the characters, the setting and the plot (books don’t need to have words in order to tell a story).

Talk about words that are the same but have different meanings (jam goes on your toast, as well as meaning cars stuck in traffic).

Give your child time (10 seconds) to sound out words they don’t recognise straight away.

When you talk to your child, use some interesting words and talk about what they mean. Try changing the first letter in a word to make a new word.

Ask your child to help you write the shopping list and match it to items in the shop.

Use personal experiences as opportunities for you and your child to notice words in your environment (for example shops, street names).

Play fun games with cards (Top Trumps, Pairs, Snap) and encourage your child to read out the rules for favourite games.

Take turns to read aloud at story time and be an enthusiastic listener when your child reads aloud to you.

Have a special place to keep your books at home and a special time to read them.

Take a book everywhere you go and make up stories as you travel, with each of you adding a new line.