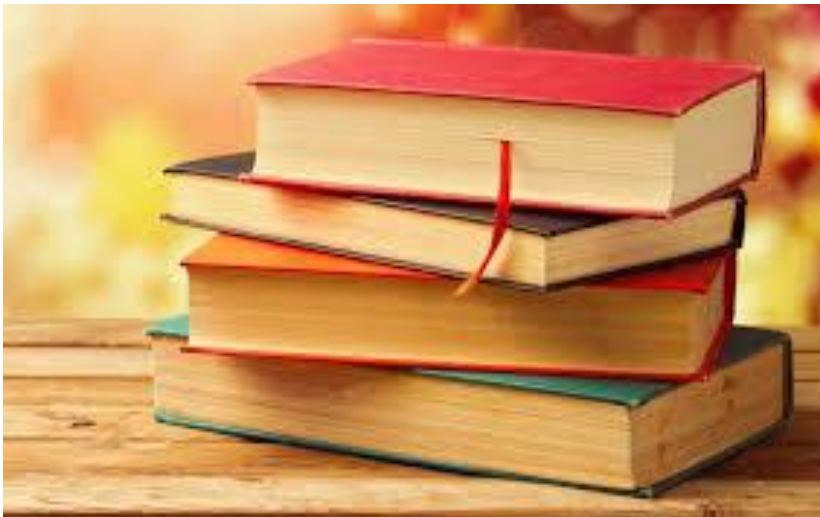




ENCOURAGING YOUR CHILD TO READ

Carleton High School





Ways to encourage children to read...

- **Lead the way.** Let children see you reading for pleasure.
- **Have in your home a variety of reading material.** Leave books, magazines and newspapers around. Check to see what disappears for a clue as to what interests your children.
- **Give children an opportunity to choose their own books.** When you and your child are out together, browse in book shops or libraries. Go your separate ways and make your own selections. A book shop gift voucher is a nice way of saying “You choose”.
- **Build on your child’s interests.** Look for books and articles that feature their favourite sports teams, rock stars, hobbies or television shows. Give a gift subscription to a special interest magazine.
- **View pleasure reading as a value in itself.** Almost anything your youngsters read – including the Sunday comics – helps build reading skills.
- **Read some books written for teens.** Young adult novels can give you valuable insights into the concerns and pressures felt by children/teenagers.
- You may find that these books provide a neutral ground on which to talk about sensitive subjects.
- **Make reading aloud a natural part of family life.** Share an article you have seen from the paper, an email or a letter.
- **Acknowledge your child’s maturing interests.** Look for ways to acknowledge the emerging adult in your teens by suggesting some adult reading you think they can handle.
- **Keep the big picture in mind.** For all sorts of reasons, some children go through periods without showing much interest in reading.

TRY TO AVOID....

- **Pressuring, nagging or bribing.** Encourage children to read, but don’t hound them.
- **Criticizing what your child reads.** Explain what troubles you about certain types of reading materials after reading them yourself. Forbid as little as possible. And whenever you can, accept differences of opinion as just that.
- **Giving up.** There is not always an easy solution but if you persevere and keep trying new techniques then you will find your child can be encouraged back to reading.



Helping children find books that interest them...

- **Decide what you're in the mood for.** Adventure? Romance? Murder Mysteries? Perhaps you enjoyed a recent movie or TV mini-series: the chances are it was based on a book you'd also enjoy.
- **Ask around.** Ask friends, a favourite teacher, or your Librarian to suggest books they enjoyed.
- **Check out the local library.** It won't cost you anything and the choices are virtually unlimited. Don't be shy about asking a Librarian a question like, "Do you have any books on pop music?"
- **Browse in a book shop.** Find the section that interests you – fantasy, cars, computers etc. Treat yourself to an inexpensive paperback, or just have a look around.
- **Consult a list of books other young people have enjoyed.** Ask for a book list at your school or local library.
- **Don't judge a book by its cover.** What you see on the cover is not necessarily what you get. Read the short reviews printed inside a dust jacket, or skim the first chapter to find out what a book is really about.
- **Try a few pages.** If the book is not for you, put it aside and try another until you find a winner.
- **Read at your own pace.** Reading isn't a contest. So what if you read slowly or skip words here and there? If you're interested, you'll read to the end and that's what counts. And you'll probably find yourself picking up speed along the way.
- **Let one good thing lead to another.** When you read something that really speaks to you, you may be sorry to have it end. However, the end is never really the end for a person who reads; You can always open another book... and another.



What's in it for your child? Through reading they can...

- **Become an expert.** An expert on any subject they like – from sports stats to space craft, coins to carburettors, or anything in between.
- **Live dangerously.** Through reading children can share the challenges, fears, thrills and achievements of those they are reading about without taking part in a risky activity.
- **Have a few laughs.** Many children will enjoy sitting down with a book by their favourite stand-up comedian, a collection of jokes or cartoons, or a humour magazine.
- **See the world.** Without leaving their room, children can visit places that fascinate them.

- **Travel through time.** Historical fiction and science fiction move a reader back and forth in time.
- **Use their brains.** Children may enjoy solving a mystery by finding out whodunnit, outwitting a crafty villain, or thinking through a perilous situation.
- **Get some free advice.** Lots of novels feature teenage characters that have problems and pressures similar to those your teenager may be dealing with.
- **Discover new interests.** Through reading, children may develop an interest in something they knew nothing about before.
- **Find a cause.** Children can get smart about an issue that matters to them.
- **Escape.** Children can escape noise, tension, or boredom by escaping into a book.

Great websites to check out:

Fantastic Fiction – www.fantasticfiction.co.uk

Roald Dahl - roalddahl.com

The One Hundred Best Young Adult Books of All Time – <https://time.com/100-best-young-adult-books/>