

Spotlight on Supporting Readers at Home



A recent BookTrust survey found that 95% of families know that it's important to read with their child but only 42% of children have a bedtime story.

We know that it can be difficult to find the opportunity to read with your child. Below are some suggestions on how to make that special time even more powerful and meaningful.

Reading aloud to your child shows them reading is a pleasurable activity. Older children can read to younger ones too.

Making time to read alongside one another helps develop children's stamina and interest. **Book Chats** encourage readers to make connections and share their views. Join in with your thoughts too!

Book Chat is the informal interaction that accompanies reading to and with children. This 'chat' helps to develop children's language, comprehension and nurture a love of reading. Below are a few ideas to spark a conversation with your child when reading.

Ponder and wonder: Encourage your child to think about what might happen. "I wonder if / whether / who / why / what..."

Make personal connections: Reading helps children make sense of their own lives. "That reminds me of when..."

Draw attention to illustrations: Encourage your child to notice details in the pictures and think what they might mean.

Comment on your feelings: This will help to promote the link between reading and building empathy.

We hope you found this information useful. If you would like more information, you can find The Open University's posters on supporting readers at home ([here](#)) and Book Chat ([here](#)).

Fiction Recommendations - Infants

The Star Whale Nicola Davies and Petr Horáček



Writer Nicola Davies has collaborated with her close friend and illustrator Petr Horáček. Horáček's vibrant and dreamlike illustrations act as the inspiration for Davies's poems. This extraordinary combination of images and words will be enjoyed over and over again.

How Does Santa Go Down the Chimney? Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen



An important question at this time of year is discussed by the witty pairing of Barnett and Klassen. Does Santa know about the key under the flowerpot? What if you don't have a chimney? Could this book start a new family reading tradition this Christmas?

Classic Recommendations - Infants

The Tale of Peter Rabbit Beatrix Potter



This mischievous rabbit has been around since 1902 and it seems that his popularity has never waned. Peter gets into all sorts of mischief especially with Mr McGregor. An entertaining read that also teaches valuable lessons about life.

The Little Prince Antoine De Saint-Exupery



The Little Prince leaves his home to explore the world and meets some interesting characters along the way. The author beautifully captures the world from a child's perspective and the book is a celebration of the value of questions and the power of wonder.

Non-fiction Recommendations - Infants

An Animal a Day Miranda Smith and various illustrators



Find your birthday animal in this fascinating book. The breathtaking illustrations bring each animal to life - you may learn about completely new animals or facts about animals you thought you knew a lot about. A wonderful book for any animal lover.

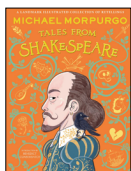
Weird Sea Sophie Burrows



A weird and wonderful collection about happenings at sea. It covers all sorts of topics from lesser known underwater creatures to real-life events like the mysterious case of The Mary Celeste. Filled with fascinating facts and fun illustrations.

Fiction Recommendations - Juniors

Tales from Shakespeare Michael Morpurgo



A wonderful retelling of Shakespeare's plays by the master storyteller and previous Children's Laureate, Michael Morpurgo. Ten of The Bard's best loved plays are retold in a fresh and modern way hoping to inspire a new generation of Shakespeare enthusiasts.

Read, Scream, Repeat curated by Jennifer Killick



A diverse anthology of thirteen new horror stories by contemporary authors including Sharina Jackson, Joseph Coelho and Polly Ho-Yen. This collection of stories will thrill and entertain readers. Appropriate for 9 to 11 year olds. Do you dare to take a look inside...?

Classic Recommendations - Juniors

Tom's Midnight Garden Philippa Pearce



Tom is sent to live with his aunt and uncle. At night, he hears a grandfather clock strike thirteen and travels back in time to a garden where he finds a playmate. This magical book is still as relevant today as when it was first published over 60 years ago.

A Wizard of Earthsea Ursula K Le Guin



A tale of wizards and dragons. Follow the quest of Ged, a young and ambitious wizard, who is tempted to try spells beyond his powers and lets loose an evil shadow-beast, which he must destroy. Fans of Harry Potter will love this fantasy book.

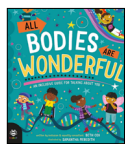
Non-fiction Recommendations - Juniors

Life on the Thames Emma Shoard



This non-fiction book explores the Thames from its source to its estuary in the North Sea. You will learn about the history of the famous river and what animals live in and around it through beautiful watercolour pictures. A fantastic read for any wildlife lover!

All Bodies are Wonderful Beth Cox



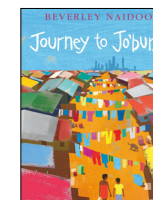
A fascinating book which not only offers a great introduction to scientific topics of DNA and genes but also has sections on gender and discrimination. It's full of interesting facts and offers a great opportunity to have conversations about our wonderful bodies.

Belleville Book Club

A few teachers at Belleville have set up a book club where they read and discuss children's books every half-term. The latest books, 'Coming to England' by Floella Benjamin and 'A Journey to Jo'Burg' by Beverley Naidoo, were chosen from CLPE's Black History book list ([click here for book list](#)) in celebration of Black History Month.



The teachers commented how Benjamin's book offers an opportunity to talk about the Windrush Generation, racism, the power of working hard and the idea that sometimes dreams do come true. Naidoo's book, which was banned in South Africa when first published during Apartheid, was praised for giving an insight into a topic which children are unlikely to be explicitly taught in primary school. Members of the Belleville Book Club look forward to their next meet-up.



Exciting Booklists and Reading Challenge



Take a look at the following booklists that have been compiled by LoveReading4Kids. They may provide some inspiration this festive period:

The Best Children's Box Sets - Great Gift Ideas for Young Readers this Christmas ([click here](#) to see booklist)

Stocking Fillers for Kids - the perfect children's books to find on Christmas morning ([click here](#) to see booklist)

The LoveReading4Kids Best Children's Books of 2023 ([click here](#) to see booklist).

Following the success of the Summer Reading Challenge, Wandsworth Libraries are taking part in the Winter Mini Challenge.

The Challenge started on 1 December 2023 and ends on 19 February 2024.

Read, rate and review three or more books to complete the Winter Mini Challenge.

You can join the challenge by signing up on this [page](#). Once you've read a book, rate and review it on the website for chances to unlock a virtual badge and receive a special certificate.

Buy books and support the school



If you buy your books online, please consider buying them from <https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/> and nominate the school. Not only do you get 10% off but the school receives 25% of the cover price, which we can then spend on new books for the children. Thank you.