

Years 4 to 7: A quick guide to helping your child with reading

- Read to or with your child every day, even if it is just for 15 minutes a day. Make this time special, comfortable and fun. Remember to remove all distractions from your child like turning off the television.
- Ask your child to choose the book they want to read. They will be more focused and motivated to read a book they are interested in than one they are not.
- As you read a book with your child, ask them questions like *Who is your favourite character? What do you think will happen next?*
- Take turns reading to each other. You can read the first paragraph and your child reads the next one.
- Show your child how we use reading for everyday things in our lives such as reading food labels and road signs.
- Talk with your child about how you can find different pieces of information in different types of books. For example, information books often have a table of contents at the front or index at the back to help you find the information you need.
- When your child comes home from school with an assignment or project, show and help them research the topic at the library, on the internet or from a book. Ask questions and get them to find the answers like *Where does it live? What does it eat?*
- Read letters and emails from your friends with your child.
- Play games like Monopoly and Trivial Pursuit as these games rely a lot on reading. Get the whole family involved.
- Encourage a love of reading by buying books for gifts. Always have lots of materials at home so children always have something to read.
- Read the TV guide together and plan the programs you want to watch. Ask your child to read the movie reviews.
- Visit the library often. Let your child choose the books they want to borrow.
- Cook together and ask your child to read out the recipe.

