

DEAR FAMILIES,

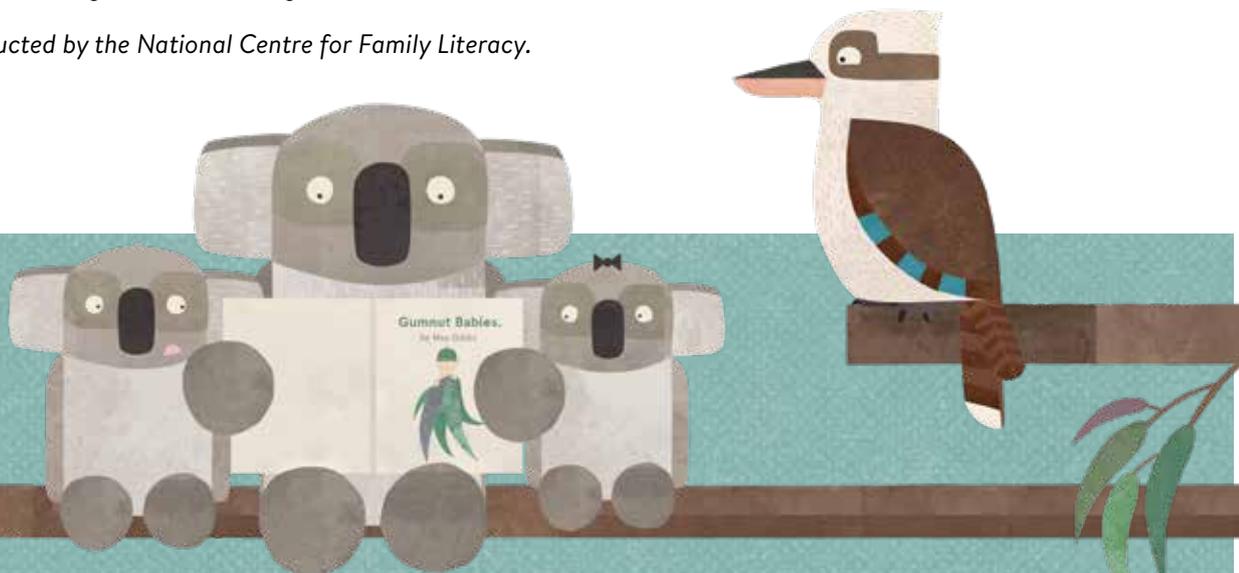
If we want children to read independently, they need to have easy access to a wide assortment of fiction and nonfiction books, choice in what they read, and time to practise reading. Given a good selection of books, all kids read more. And those who read more books get more practice and become better readers.

Research shows that children who read books for just 10 minutes a day perform better in school.*

Here are some great ways to get your child reading:

1. Set aside a reading time. Pick a reading time that is suitable for everyone. It might be before bedtime or even after homework.
2. Pick a reading place. It is important that everyone is comfortable so they can enjoy the book. Try reading in the living room, or maybe seated at the dinner table works best.
3. Read together. One person can read the book, or family members can take turns.
4. Visit your local library. Enjoy free resources such as books and read-aloud events.
5. Involve and engage everyone. Before reading, point to the book's title, author and illustrator. Ask listeners, 'What do you think the story is going to be about?' As you read, ask your family members what they think will happen next. And be sure to use exciting voices to engage listeners!
6. Fill your home with reading materials. Place books, magazines, newspapers, cookbooks and more throughout the house so your child is surrounded by things to read.
7. Get caught reading yourself. When your child sees you read, they will be inspired to read.
8. Have older siblings read to younger siblings. By reading to a younger sibling, the reader will gain confidence.
9. Start seasonal traditions. Pick a book to read every year when your child goes back to school. You can also read the same special book during a holiday.
10. Keep favourite books around. It can be comforting for a new reader to build confidence and fluency by practising when re-reading a favourite book.

**Research conducted by the National Centre for Family Literacy.*



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