

TIPS FOR PARENTS OF EARLY AND INDEPENDENT READERS

Some children in Middle Primary see themselves as good readers, and others may see themselves as poor readers. A major goal during this stage of development is to help your child read and write more fluently and with greater ease and confidence.

Here are five tips that will help you coach your eager young reader.

1) CREATE A THINKING ENVIRONMENT

- Ask your child why they like a certain book or story. Discuss language, characters, plot and the elements of good literature.
- Notice when your child's reading skills have grown, and point out these improvements. Share any concerns with their teacher.
- Keep your supply of reading material fresh by checking out books from the library, borrowing books from friends, shopping in book stores and participating in Book Club. Books also make great gifts.

2) READ A VARIETY OF BOOKS

- Continue to read aloud to young, independent readers. Read books together that are too hard for children to read by themselves.
- Read series books and expand your child's genre selections to include humour, mystery, biography and historical fiction. Children at this age fall in love with characters, situations and authors.
- Read magazines, newspapers, and comic books—these are also important genres.

3) READ PURPOSEFULLY

- Read for information. Read maps, graphs, charts, and recipes together. Learn how to read a bus timetable!
- Let your child catch you in the act of reading. It's important that your child knows you enjoy reading too.
- Support your child's hobbies and interests with books and reference materials.

4) SUPPORT THE READING HABIT

- Be sure your child has enough time each day for reading.
- Tie books and TV together. For example, read about whales after watching a 'Whales' TV special.
- Don't rush your child through a book. Your child may be a thorough reader, getting into the images the author 'paints'.

5) MAKE THE READING/WRITING CONNECTION

- Help your child make and keep a journal of thoughts they have at the end of a book. If you are reading the same book, share the journal.
- Encourage your child to tell you a story, either fictional or a story about the day. Share your stories too.

