


5 Ways to Build Readers

	<p>Have plenty of books, magazines, or newspapers around in the home. Don't just have them in the child's bedroom but make sure there are books in every main every room. If a child needs to go and get a book from another room they are less likely to just pick one up.</p> <p>Make sure there is a range of books - whatever the age of the child there should be some they can pick up independently and leaf through - even if they can't read. But others that can be shared with a parent.</p> <p>Don't forget comics and other reading material, stories on ipads or computers etc. It's all reading!</p>
	<p>Reading should be fun and one great way to ensure this is to write notes for a child. IN fact creating a simple treasure hunt where one note leads to another can be great fun. For children who are beginning to read, keep it simple (supported by a drawing if necessary) and gradually increase complexity as the child's skill develops.</p> <p>The child knows the home so a simple message like 'get a hat' should take them to drawer or cupboard where the next note can be. Great fun!</p> <p>Have a whiteboard and pen in the kitchen and write notes regularly, - or have magnetic letters on a fridge and spell out a message - 'It's pizza for tea' for example.</p>
	<p>Make sure they see you reading. Children learn by copying. Rather than told they need to read - let them see you reading, and enjoying it. If you see it as important and if reading is something that you make time for this will be a powerful message for them because they always like to copy. Be explicit, tell them you are going to read and suggest they do too - even when they are very small they will enjoy picking up a book and looking at the pictures- pretending to read- and being like you.</p>
	<p>Make reading a really special time. If you are reading with a child then give them your full attention, put the phone away, turn off the TV - I know you may still need to attend to other children but get them involved too. Reading at bedtime is soothing and cuddling a child while reading is such a pleasure - but it doesn't have to ONLY happen at bedtime. Build regular reading slots into the day. .Visits to the library are also a great way to encourage reading</p>
	<p>Set aside time every day to read. It is great to make reading a special time associated with comfort and initially attention from adults. But it is also important to see it as an EVERY day activity. Make sure when you go out on a journey you take books, if you are waiting somewhere you have a book or comic basically build regular reading into every day, whenever you can.</p>