

6

FUN IDEAS TO ENCOURAGE READING FOR PLEASURE

MAKE TIME TO READ ALOUD

Who doesn't love a story and a snuggle! Neuroscience research confirms connections between narrative reading in childhood, memory creation and life-long feelings of well-being. Reading the same book again and again creates neural pathways that link to positive emotions we can return to throughout life.

READ ALL THE THINGS!

Stories are a wonderful opening to different worlds, but that's not all there is - lots of children are drawn to non-fiction, and comics are awesome too! Recipe books, magazines and craft books offer a wealth of possibilities for developing literacy and life skills, all while having fun.

GIVE KIDS CHOICES

Research shows children are more engaged, learn more and make more effort when they choose reading materials for themselves. This is true even for very young children and when minimal choice is involved, such as selecting their preferred book from 2 options.

TRY PODCASTS & AUDIOBOOKS

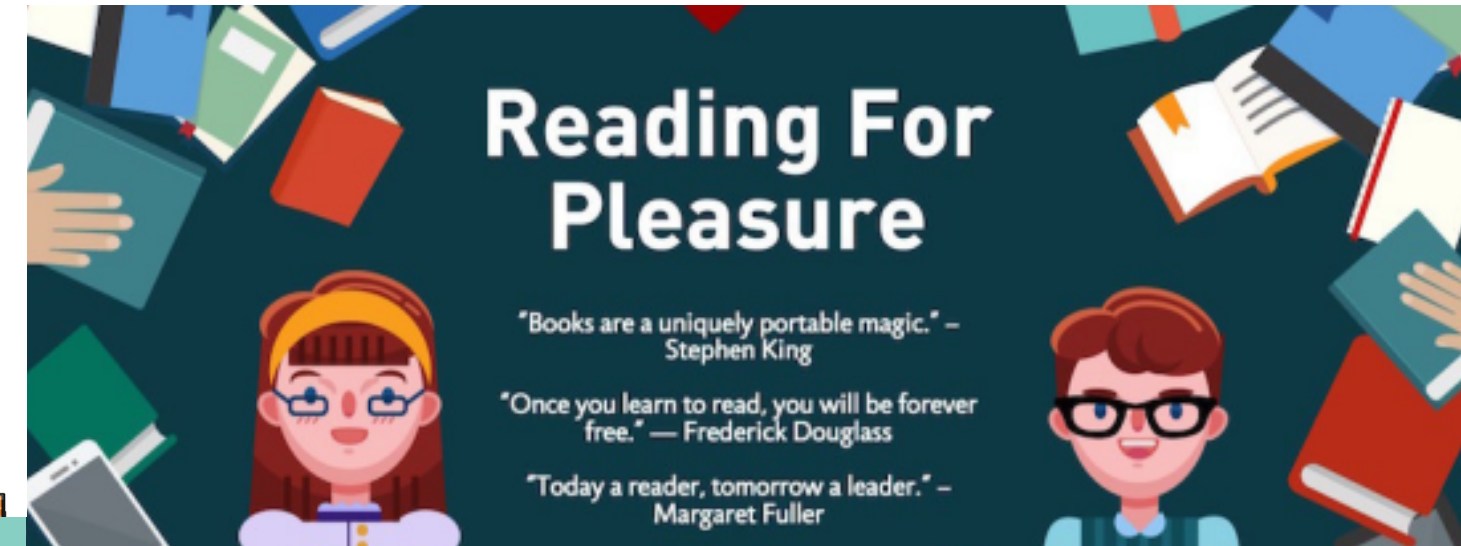
Going on a family holiday or a long drive? A family audiobook is the perfect solution to keep passengers happy and drivers alert during long car trips. On breaks or between trips, everyone will love talking about the story and predicting what will happen next!

DO READ AT THE DINNER TABLE!

Your posh aunt Primrose may not approve, but as Katharine Hepburn said, "If you obey all the rules, you miss all the fun!" Designate one or two meals a week as 'reading meals', where reading at the table is encouraged. To make it extra special, you could plan the meal around a literary theme and let everyone help with the cooking.

MAKE IT SOCIAL

There are lots of ways to share a love of books and reading. Neighbourhood book club, book swap, literary charades, poetry open mic night (with popcorn and prizes), put on a 'play' retelling a favourite story. You are only limited by your imagination, which luckily is supercharged thanks to all the reading you've been doing.



Reading For Pleasure

"Books are a uniquely portable magic." - Stephen King

"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free." - Frederick Douglass

"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." - Margaret Fuller

Reading for pleasure

develops:

- vocabulary
- grammar
- writing style
- spelling

Literacy development happens when we **UNDERSTAND** what we read.

Numerous studies show



...the more we read...

...the better we read...

...the more we enjoy it...



Toddlers who know more words read better in school later, and...

...school-going children who read for pleasure perform better in all subjects, including **MATHS!**



How many **WORDS** have children heard by the time they are 3?

48 MILLION WORDS

Parents who have professional jobs

Families who receive welfare benefits

13 MILLION WORDS



Around the world children growing up in poverty struggle to read, **BUT...**



...studies show that when poor children are exposed to books they start to read better.

Reading for pleasure has a stronger impact on educational achievement than the socio-economic status of parents!