



MIDBAYS KĀHUI AKO

Guide to reading at home with our kids



READING AT HOME

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Why is reading so important?

Supporting our children and teens to read for pleasure is one of the best things we can do to improve their wellbeing, literacy and learning.

Family and whānau involvement in the child's reading and learning is more important than anything else to help them fulfil their potential.

Reading and hearing lots of stories before starting school will set children up with a strong foundation.



Reading together is fun, builds relationships and will improve your child's self-esteem.

Reading books to children will help build their language, understanding, and empathy.

Reading unites families around shared stories. Talking with your child also enriches their reading and writing skills hugely.

Any reading is good reading! Don't worry if your child is focused on one type of book. And if they're not enjoying it, it's fine to stop reading and choose another book!



MAKING TIME FOR 15 MINUTES OR MORE A DAY OF BEING READ TO, OR READING ALONE, MAKES A HUGE DIFFERENCE TO CHILDREN'S READING, WRITING AND THINKING.

How can I create a reading culture at home?



READING ALOUD TO YOUR CHILD SAYS:

- **I LOVE YOU**
- **I VALUE MY TIME WITH YOU**
- **I VALUE READING**

All Readers - including fluent readers

Make reading together a daily activity at home. Set aside 15 minutes or more with each child to read a book of their choice. If English is your second language, read in your home language. Share your excitement and the child will adopt it. Talk to them about the story, the characters and the pictures afterwards. Ask questions that encourage discussion but don't try to test them!

Emergent Readers

Look at the pictures and the title first so they are primed about what will happen. When you start reading, track smoothly with your finger so the child can see where you are.

Novice Readers

Support your child's reading: encourage them to make predictions about the world of the story, listen to them read and if they get a word wrong, don't worry. Pause to let them work it out, praise them for trying, give them the word if they're not sure, then move on. Celebrate what they get right and keep it fun!



Ask questions like:

- What would you have done?
- Did they do the right thing?
- Why did they react like that?
- What was your favourite bit?
- Are you like those children?
Why/Why not?

This helps develop empathy and evaluation skills.

How can I create a reading culture at home?

Bring in the three Bs: books at home, bookshelves and a bedside lamp in a child's room will all help set up that snug bedtime reading space.

Bring books home: use the library, the local community book stands, the op-shops, swap with friends... having books at home is one of the strongest encouragements to read, and kids who read daily are three times more likely to be reading at or above their age level.

Look at how books are stored at home: are they visible? Are they cared for? Keep introducing your child to different types of books.

And don't forget about audiobooks! These are a brilliant way into stories and they can be played at bedtime, in the car, when you are doing chores at home...the list is endless! There are some links on the back page to some good free audiobook sites.



Be a reading role model at home

If you have more than one language, share books with your children in those different languages. Encourage other family members to do this too.

Let your child see you and other whānau members read for pleasure, demonstrating that books are an everyday part of life.

Manage how much gaming, iPad and other screen time your child has so they have time for reading.



Strategies to help your child



Some strategies to help children manage books - even ones that are a bit too hard for them - include:

- Echo reading, where the parent reads a section and the child mimics it, helps the child feel like a fluent reader and builds their confidence.
- Shared reading, where child and adult take turns to read sections, enables the parent to gently correct errors or mispronunciations without drawing attention to them.
- Paired reading is simply reading aloud together at the same pace and in the same place. It can help readers who use a monotone, ignore punctuation, or read too fast or too slowly.
- Talk about the new vocabulary - tell them what the word means, give them some words with similar meanings, mention its opposite, and encourage them to use it in their own sentences and in their own writing.

Find out more

Join your [local library](#) - they have great programmes over the summer to encourage children to keep reading. Kids who are members of a library are twice as likely to read at home.

Explore [these links](#) to online resources, including book lists, ebooks, audiobooks, and print books.



Talk to your child's school about their reading and what you are reading with them at home.

Most importantly, have fun with
books!