

READING TOGETHER

IT'S EASIER THAN YOU
THINK (AND FUN, TOO!)



By Alec Williams

For children, reading is the key to everything else, and any teacher will tell you that children who want to read, learn to read faster... and they keep on learning

You're the one who starts this happening, when you Read Together. From the start, you can:

- Read or sing simple rhymes to children
- Sit together, turning pages of a picture book (it's an excuse for a long hug!)
- Let them see you reading – either books, or newspapers or magazines.

You may have a happy memory of someone reading to you when you were young.

Whether or not you do, make that happen for your child when they're starting school, by:

- Reading stories aloud. There are books in two languages, and ones with no words, too.
- Telling them stories you remember, or making some up – maybe with their name in!
- Using audiobooks on car, bus or train journeys.

Don't stop reading as they go through school.

Help support their reading by:

- Praising children as they learn to read, and adding stories just for the fun of listening
- Try switching on sub-titles when they watch TV, so they're reading what they hear
- Remembering that information books – on animals, cars, anything – are reading too
- Showing interest even with teens; try 'the book of the film', or social media book chat.

Your child will love to hear you read –

because it's you! Don't be shy about chanting choruses together, making animal noises, or trying different voices.

Remember: public libraries are free to use (many have no fines for children, and there's lots of choice), and books make great presents (it's special, having their own bookshelf!).

Supporting Reading for Pleasure is one of the School Library Association's key roles; children learn to read in the classroom, but in the school library, they learn to be readers! There are lots of hints and tips on the SLA website, and a **new free publication – Get Everyone Reading! – is due out later this year.** It's a guide to the fun of reading, with libraries and books at its heart, compiled by former SLA Chair Alec Williams, a book enthusiast, storyteller – and like you, a parent! We'd be glad to help.

Web: www.sla.org.uk **Email:** info@sla.org.uk

