**RELUCTANT READERS**

What if my child doesn't like reading?

We know that not all children read for pleasure - they might find it difficult or think that it's boring.

On this page, we share some top tips to help young people enjoy reading more.

Research has shown that reading for pleasure can make a huge difference to children - not only academically (even in subjects like maths) but also socially and emotionally.

But what if your child doesn't enjoy reading? Whether they find it difficult or think it's boring, it's not always something young people are keen to do. But here are some things that could help:

* **Talk about books.**Talking to children about books and stories can help them to realise how exciting they are. Show an interest in what they've read, ask questions about it, and swap opinions.
* **Don't worry about what your children are reading.** Whether it's a short story, poetry, a graphic novel, non-fiction, joke books, a comic or even the back of a cereal packet, it doesn't matter what your child is reading - as long as they're enjoying it! Anything could kickstart a love of books. (And don't panic if they read the same book over and over again, either.)
* **... and try funny books.** Everyone likes a good giggle! (If your child is brave, scary stories or gory horror might be worth a go too.)
* **Give them the chance to choose.**It's a great idea to give children the chance to choose what they read. Maybe you could take them to a bookshop and let them pick out something as a treat or make regular library visits to help them figure out what they enjoy. Also check out the Blue Coat Library Dashboard [link] for suggested reading for all types and level of reader.
* **Find books related to their interests.** If your child is a gamer, why not try choose-your-own-adventure books, Minecraft guides or stories about virtual reality? If they like sport, you could try one of Kwame Alexander's verse novels or a biography of their favourite football player. If a book is about something they already love, it could be a brilliant way to get them hooked. Or perhaps their favourite film is based on a book - you could enjoy the story together and talk about how the movie and the original story are different.
* **Try series fiction.**If your child loves the first *Harry Potter* book, there are six more stories for them to dive into! There are some wonderful series out there that have converted reluctant readers into bookworms - you could try the *Tom Gates* books by Liz Pichon or the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series. And when they've read them all, check out our [What to Read After](https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/what-to-read-after/) section for top tips about other titles they might enjoy!