

WHAT **YOU** CAN DO TO ENCOURAGE READING FOR PLEASURE AT HOME

- **Set a good example:** Let your child see you reading, and that you value books.
- **Talk about reading:** Share your views about books that you have read. Talk about books that you liked, and books that you didn't like. Send the message that reading is fun, but that's its also okay to not like a book.
- **Don't stop reading to your child:** Some children love being read to and value this connection with you, even when they become fluent readers themselves.
- **Make time to read:** Set aside time just for family reading, perhaps at bedtime. You could even switch off the wi-fi and put away game controllers and just sit and read together or aloud.
- **Don't just read books:** Encourage your child to read different formats: magazines, newspapers, comics, manga etc.
- **Download books and audiobooks:** Public libraries offer free e-books, audiobooks, magazines and comics:
<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/online-library/digital-library-audio-and-e-books>
- **Let them read what they want and at their own pace:** Don't pressure your child into reading what you think they should read – this is usually counterproductive, as reading is highly individual and everyone has their own preferences. Public libraries offer a hugely diverse catalogue if we don't have a book in stock, and reservations and loans are free!
- **It's okay to not finish a book!** It's okay if they're not enjoying a book after giving it a go: allow them to put it down and try something else.
- **Visit the library:** Take days out to visit your local public library together and discover the huge range of resources and events that are available to you for free.

According to research, reading more than 20 minutes daily will have the optimum impact on students' literacy levels and on their work across the curriculum too.