

Golden Rules

- ✗ **DON'T** think that because your child can make his way through simple school reading books without too many mistakes that he has mastered reading. Fluent confident reading takes years of practice and involves many real books!
- ✓ **DO** find things for your child to read which centre on his non-school interests. Try to help your child to understand that reading is something we do for fun and not just at school.
- ✗ **DON'T** think that books are the only or even the best way to practise reading. Comics, magazines and some websites are also great ways for your child to get enjoyable reading practice.
- ✓ **DO** let your child see you reading for your own pleasure. It is true that children do as we do, not as we say.
- ✓ **DO** read some of the same things that your child reads. It's nice to be able to talk to someone else about what we've read.
- ✗ **DON'T** criticise or pressurise your child if they're not that keen on reading. Instead try to find reading material about their hobbies or interests which might encourage a reading habit. But if they're still not interested take a step back for a little while.
- ✓ **DO** let your child use the internet to learn more about her interests but...
- ✗ **DON'T** allow her to have unsupervised access



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Your Child with...

READING



I'm so cool, I can count to a million in ten minutes... Believe that, and you'll believe anything!

AGES: JUNIOR



Simple advice on helping a junior child enjoy reading...

Congratulations! Your child has gone past the first stage of learning to read ~ no more pointing or having to work out many of the words in simple books. Of course he is not yet a totally fluent or confident reader, able to tackle anything he comes across. That takes years of practice. As parents, it's our job to help provide as many opportunities for that practice as possible. So, how can you help him to keep going?

Follow your child's interests: Is your child mad about video games or football? Dolphins or High School Musical? Whatever her interests, there will be something out there to grab her, while improving her reading skills. Your job is to find it! And remember, reading isn't just about books – There's suitable material in magazines, comics and on the internet.

Variety: There are so many different kinds of text out there: websites, comics, instruction manuals, football magazines, information books and, of course, stories. Each is organised in a different way and requires different reading skills. The more practice your child has tackling these, the better a reader she will become.

Reading with your child: Some children and parents carry on reading together at bedtime for years – which is just great! If your child doesn't want to do this, do read what he

is reading from time to time. It is still fun to talk to someone else about favourite stories or books.

TV tie-ins: Nowadays there are often fiction and non-fiction books based around films and TV programmes, whether it's Mamma Mia or Doctor Who. Even looking at a programme's website is a great opportunity for reading practice which can lead to your child discovering more interesting things to read.

Make books special: Try to put a bookshelf in your child's room or somewhere else in your home just for your child's books. This helps to make books important, whether they have been bought, given as a present, borrowed from the library or are lent by a friend.

Comics and magazines: There are lots of children's magazines and comics on the market, so it's quite likely that there's one out there your child will enjoy as well, whether they're into football, kittens or Transformers. Why not help your child to order his favourite comic from your local newsagent and let him collect it every Saturday?

