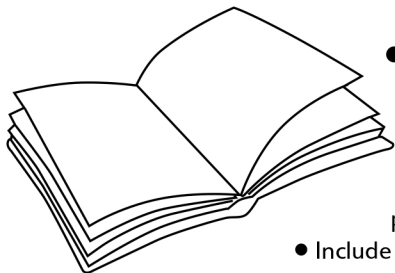


# Promoting reading

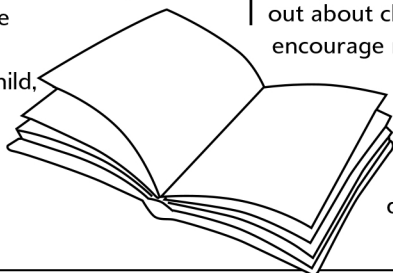
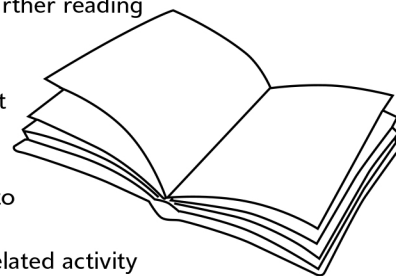
Here are lots of ideas and activities to help stimulate children's interest in reading and books.



- Your library area should be clearly laid out and signposted.
- Books should be displayed face out where possible.
- Use bright information posters and other displays.
- Include some soft furnishings to encourage quiet reading.
- Use a computerised library system for ease of access and enquiries.
- Include children's hand-made books.
- Teach and promote library skills to enable children and staff to use the library effectively.
- Have a wide choice of reading available, including comics and magazines.
- Sign up to the Schools Library Service where you will have access to a wide variety of help, including termly loans, topic boxes and advice.
- Have a range of resources available to help children and staff find out about books and authors – review magazines, booklists, videos, and so on.
- Encourage children to use websites to find out about books and authors. Most publishers have excellent sites, with links to those of their authors.
- Encourage children to write to authors – many will reply. Send c/o publisher.
- Take part in national reading/book campaigns – World Book Day, National Poetry Day, Children's Book Week, Red House Children's Book Award, Carnegie and Greenaway Awards shadowing, Scattered Authors Society, Reading Connects.
- Join organisations such as the Federation of Children's Book Groups, School Library Association, National Centre for Literacy and Language.
- Make time for reading – use a specific time each day/week when the whole school is reading for a set length of time.
- Encourage staff to read aloud to children of all ages.
- Talk about books – encourage children and staff to talk about what they are reading and bring in favourite books to share.
- Use hot seating where a child,

in character from a book, has to answer questions to the rest of the class. Ask children to think which characters they would most like to meet/invite to a party.

- Set up a reading group. Their recommendations can form the basis of booklists distributed to every child.
- Hold special book assemblies where children and staff can share recommended/new titles.
- Make a 'Books of the month' display with a selection of titles promoted in school.
- Feature 'Get caught reading' – a fun display of photos of children and staff reading around school, on holiday, weekends, and so on.
- Spread the word by sending out postcards recommending good reads.
- Use 'Recommended Read' cards and display them in your library with class collections. They could also be tucked into books, as could cards or bookmarks with suggested further reading – 'If you like this, try...'
- Set up reading buddies by pairing up children in different year groups.
- Encourage all children to provide suggestions of what to buy for their library.
- Provide a variety of book-related activity sheets and quizzes – add them to displays.
- Hold book sales in school – not all children have the opportunity to visit bookshops. There are a number of companies offering a book buying service, either through mail order or school visits. Visit the 'Clubs and Fairs' section at [www.scholastic.co.uk](http://www.scholastic.co.uk) for information on book fairs. Local bookshops will also help and may offer guided tours.
- Promote public library membership – arrange visits or invite librarians in and encourage children to take part in a Summer Reading Challenge.
- Devise your 'Reading challenge' and encourage wide reading without being prescriptive.
- Hold sessions for parents to help them find out about children's books and ways to encourage reading.



- Invite authors and illustrators into your school to speak to children about their work. Publishers will help to organise visits, and provide display material.