

Parent's Guide

Words can't hold us back

A few useful tips to help you
grow your child's literacy
skills and interests

 **texthelp**[®]



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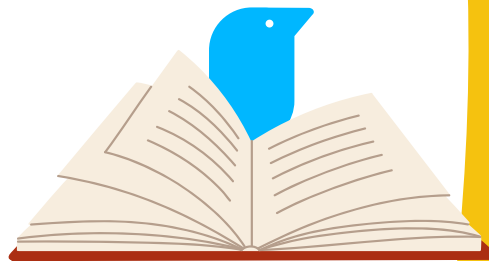
Early Years, 0-5

Off to a great start

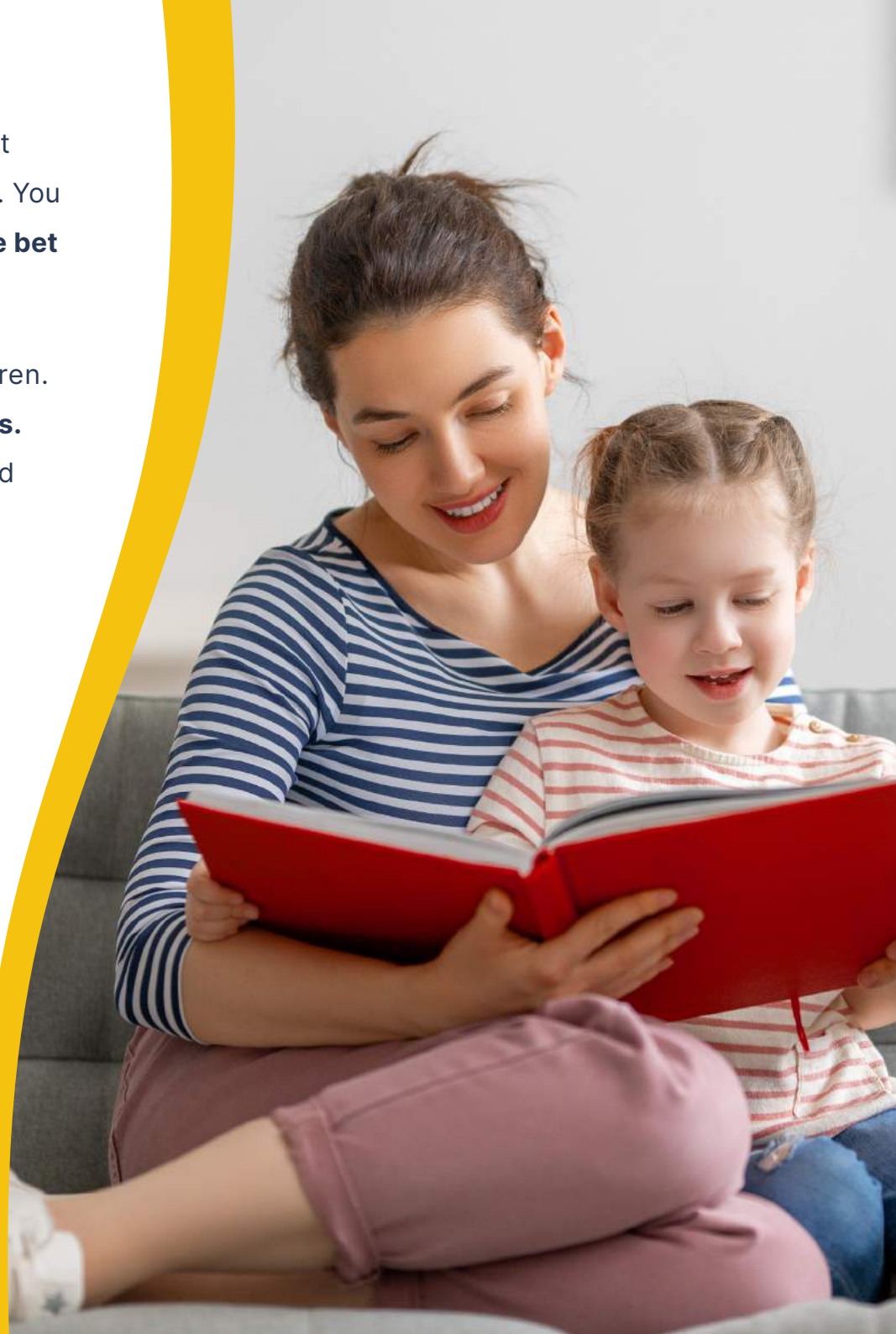
Fun ways to build reading literacy habits in early childhood



- 1 Read with your child every day.** It helps to chill them out before daytime naps and before bedtime.
- 2** Have a place to keep your books. **Let your child pick** what to read and then put it back in the right place. Yes, this may mean reading the same book over and over. Young children love knowing what comes next. Even if they know the ending they are still taking in the words, the rhythm and the pictures.
- 3 Sign up for the library.** This way your child can choose their own books. It's a great way to **find new stories** you might not have tried before.
- 4 Act it out.** Let your child show you what happens in their own words and movement. Even in the early years you can **build comprehension skills.**
- 5** Give it a little sparkle. **Use expression and humour** to bring the books to life.



- 6 Rhythm and rhyme - sing nursery songs. If you're any good at rapping you can try that too. **Let your child finish the rhyme.** You can mess it up, leave out words and see if you get caught! **We bet you do.**
- 7 **Play I spy.** This is an ideal game to play with younger children. You can start by playing with **letter sounds, or even colours.** Then you can work up to the proper spellings when your child is older.
- 8 **Technology can play a role** in supporting early communication, language and literacy. **It can offer new learning opportunities,** through ebooks, apps, and even video calling.
- 9 Remember that **children learn at different speeds,** so try not to compare your child with other children. **Being a good reader is the ultimate goal,** but children will get there in their own time.



Primary Years, 5-12

Steady as you go

Fun ways to build literacy skills
in primary school aged children



- 1 Pick books for the right age group.** If it's too easy it will get boring, and if it's too hard it will also get boring. You're aiming for goldilocks here - **just right.**
- 2 Show them how it's done.** It's good to let your child see you enjoy reading - even if you're reading the newspaper.
- 3** If you come across a **new word**, explain what it means and use it in a new sentence. If you don't know the meaning of the word, just say so. Show that it's not a big deal, and **look it up together.**
- 4** Shake things up with a mixture of **fiction and nonfiction.** If your child is into a cartoon based in the ocean or in a jungle **then pick a book on that topic.**
- 5** Talk about it. After you've finished the book **check for understanding.** You can ask "what would you do?", "what do you think happens next?". This can **help build comprehension skills** which are vital at school.



- 6 Get a little helper. **Ask your child to write the shopping list.** Look at the words around you as you go shopping and point them out to your child.
- 7 Take turns to read aloud, and **be a good listener too!**
- 8 If you are worried, **talk to your child's teacher.** They can reassure you that your child is **progressing**, or you can **work together** if your child needs more support.
- 9 Look into assistive technology. Texthelp created a tool, **Read&Write**, to help people read, write and understand. Read&Write was **designed to support** diverse learners, but **it can help all learners.** There's something in it for everyone.



Learn More



High school Years, 12-

Up and running

Encouraging good reading habits
for high school kids



- 1 Continue to show them how it's done. If your kids see you enjoying reading, **they're more likely to pick up a book.**
- 2 If you have a quiet space in your home to set aside as a **reading area**, that can really help too.
- 3 Have a **variety of books** in your home that your kids can choose from. Comics, magazines and newspapers all count.
- 4 If there are magazines on topics that interest your child then a **subscription** could be a brilliant gift idea.
- 5 Listening to an **audio book** together during car journeys is a great way to pass the time.



- 6 Often books are related to **films or games**. If there's a movie or a game that your child enjoys, then a **related book** could encourage reading.
- 7 If you are worried, **talk to your child's teacher**. They can reassure you that your child is **progressing**, or you can **work together** if your child needs more support.
- 8 Look into assistive technology. Texthelp created a tool, **Read&Write**, to help people read, write and understand. Read&Write was **designed to support** diverse learners, but **it can help all learners**. There's something in it for everyone.



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