

READING IDEAS: age 9-11

At this stage your child may well be reading independently at home and school for lots of different purposes, although some children may be reluctant to read adventurously and can get stuck on one author, series or type of book. There's probably more homework to do and it's more likely to require some reading and research.



Sharing reading

1: It's still good to share

It might get increasingly difficult to make time for the 'bedtime reading experience' now but it's still really useful and enjoyable; reading to your child, listening to your child read, leaving them to read alone and listening to audio books are all valuable. Try to chat informally about reading and swap ideas about good reads - no pressure! Keep track that your child is reading, encouragement may well be more necessary now.

2: Keep opening up the world of reading

Share the variety of your reading with your child: books, magazines, websites, and apps, to show how reading can help you to follow your interests and to get involved. Help them to join blogs, online communities and clubs that link to their hobbies whether it's swimming, football, dance or music.

3: Reading between the lines

Talking about stories, poems and information books can help your child to understand a book in different ways. It's not just about what's happened or who did what, so talk about the issues, what a book means to your child and whether they think there are any less obvious meanings that the author wants us to spot.

4: Research for homework

If your child is asked to research a topic, talk to them about how they will tackle the task. Remind them to look in books and use the library as well as the internet. Talk to them about how you decide what to use and what to reject - as well as how you know how to trust sources.

Building independence

1: Valuing choice but nudging forward

It continues to be really important to value your child's choices even when it wouldn't be your first choice. Children enjoy reading series of books, such as *Beast Quest*, or *Rainbow Fairies*, or books by one author, e.g. Jacqueline Wilson, and these really help with their reading pace and stamina. However, over time it's a good idea to try to gently move them on to keep their reading experience fresh and broad.

2: Encourage higher order thinking

After reading a little, or when your child has finished a book ask questions beyond the obvious.

"Why do you think that happened?" "Does that remind you of any other story or event?" "If you were a character in the book how would you have tried to persuade .. to act differently?"

3: Keep the momentum..

Encourage your child to persevere with books; moving to Secondary School will involve more reading for information, remind your child that fluency is the path to progress!

