

- **Be positive and patient with plenty of praise.** Let them know it's all right to make mistakes and don't interrupt the flow of reading to correct every error.
- **Ask lots of questions about the story.** What would you have done if you were.....? Does this book remind you of anything that has happened to you? Can you guess what is going to happen next?
- **It's not just about books.** Have comics, magazines, TV guides and newspapers available in your home. Talk about funny stories you have read. Use wordsearches and crosswords to have fun with language together.
- **Keep in touch with school.** If you know your child is struggling with the mechanics of reading, talk to their teacher about getting help and strategies you can use.

**Libraries NI wants to encourage your child to read independently with a foundation of enjoyment**



*"Without the sunlight of literature children cannot grow as they should"*

Michael Morpurgo



# ENJOYING READING

tips for  
parents and carers  
of primary age children

*"There is more treasure in a book than all the pirates' loot on Treasure Island"*

Walt Disney

libraries **ni**

- **Read yourself!** Set a good example by talking about the reading you do at work and at home. Let your child know that reading is important to you. By reading for enjoyment your child will develop the rich inner resource of their own imagination, which will continue to enhance their life emotionally and intellectually.

- **Join your local library.** It's free! Many libraries run activities and events designed for children, As well as taking out storybooks find books reflecting your child's hobbies and interests. Let them pick something they will enjoy, allowing him / her to practise reading and develop confidence. Don't be reluctant to allow your child to read books you consider too easy.

- **Fiction is important.** The complex layering and progression of a great story helps the brain to develop skills such as analysis and problem solving, along with empathy and self-awareness. No need to be too fussy: the story your child enjoys will be applying its own magic on their imagination.



- Reading about difficult issues using stories and books often encourages discussion afterwards. Reading about these topics helps to reassure your child that they are not alone in feeling the way they do. Relating to the central character in a book is very emotionally empowering.
- **Make time to read.** Set aside a time for family reading—after school or before bedtime. Encourage independent reading but continue to tell a bedtime story. Even older children enjoy being read to.
- Your child may like to read aloud from library books, school work, road and shop signs, even cereal packets, for example. Encourage reading with expression to help them read more fluently and gain meaning from the text.