

Belfast Boys' Model School

Strategies to Improve Reading and Literacy Skills

Reading is one of the most important skills your son can acquire through his academic life.

Reading can:

- Boost confidence
- Improve mental health and well-being
- Help improve spelling
- Help improve written skills

What can you do at home to help your son?

1. **Talk to your son about reading** and ask what he is reading in school. This will help him to remember and think through the themes of the novel. Ask him questions about why he liked/disliked the book and what he thinks will happen.
2. **Set a good example** -become a reader yourself. If your son sees you reading, it could encourage him to also pick up a book.
3. **Read aloud**- Read aloud to your son or get him to read to you. This will not only help boost his confidence, but also improve his fluency.
4. **Re-read** to improve fluency
5. **Encourage him** to borrow a book from the library, his English teacher or buy him a book.
6. **Speak to his teacher**- if your son is struggling with understanding what he is reading (comprehension), he may need a little more help. Speak to his English/Form/Subject Teacher or the Literacy Coordinator.
7. **Provide books** at the right level and books that will interest him.
8. **Subtitles**- put the subtitles on your TV/Netflix/Prime. Research has shown that they can double the chance of a child becoming good at reading! It takes 10 seconds and costs nothing!
9. **Podcast** consumption has increased steadily in recent years. Most podcasts are free and can be accessed on smartphones, laptops and smart speakers through free apps such as [Spotify](#), or [iTunes](#) and dedicated apps like [BBC Sounds](#), [Podbean](#) and [Audible](#). Research shows that podcasts can be used to support children's learning, giving them greater access to a whole world of topics.
10. **Use Audiobooks**- audiobook sales are growing rapidly. Their popularity amongst children has increased by 138%. Now, research shows that audiobooks can be used to support children's learning.





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Read out loud to your son



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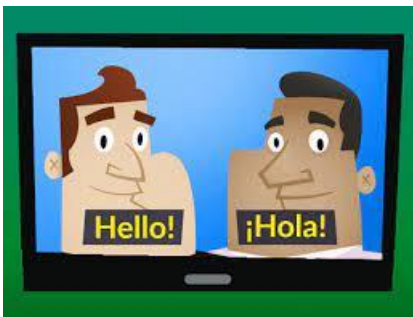
Speak to the Teacher



Read with your child



Put subtitles on the TV



Listen to Podcasts



What can you do at home to help your son?

Re-read sentences/texts



Audiobooks



Buy/borrow books

