

**TOP**

# 10 READING AT HOME TIPS FOR PARENTS

By expert literacy educator Annie Facchinetti



- 1** Find books you both enjoy - If you've read a book that you both love, read it again! Running short of time? Let your child choose the book they want you to read.
- 2** You can find things to read everywhere, not just in bookshops - Try local libraries, op shops or markets. Friends and family are often keen to share their books too!
- 3** Don't think books are the only thing to read ... you can read anything together, including the shopping list, road signs when you're in the car, and posters in shop windows. Or explore some audiobooks or podcasts at home or on the go.
- 4** Set aside a regular reading time that works with your life - Make it a habit that you both look forward to and finish every day with a story before bed.
- 5** Enlist the help of brothers and sisters - If your day gets too busy, siblings might like to read together! Ask them to tell you all about what they have read.
- 6** Ensure you're pitch perfect - Before reading, practice reading the book, so you know the story line and the expression required. Find any tricky words that you might need to explain to your child.
- 7** Remember to read slowly - Take your time and make it interesting to listen to. Encourage your child to join in too.
- 8** Judge a book by its cover - Look at the cover of the book together and have your child guess what it is going to be about. What is the book called? What can you see in the pictures? Talk about the book as you read.
- 9** Discuss the stories together - When you've finished the book (or a page or a chapter or whatever you are reading), talk about it together... who were your favourite characters, what happened, what was the ending like? This talk can happen while you're doing other things, such as getting dinner ready, or driving to footy practice.
- 10** Reading together can happen anywhere - The living room floor, the back veranda, or the kitchen table all make great reading spots. Take photos and make a book together of the funniest or strangest places you can find for reading time.

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