**Top Tips for Encouraging and Supporting Reading at Home**

**1. Reading isn’t just school books – or even books!**

Ideas

* Leave interesting reading material in different places around the house – this could be a comic, recipe, postcard, instructions, magazine, postit-note etc.
* Use anything your child is interested in – food packets, toy boxes, logos, menus
* Put the subtitles on for a favourite TV programme
* Point out text in the environment when you’re out and about – including logos.
* Listen to audio books
1. **The Fun Factor**

For long-term progress and success, reading needs to be an enjoyable thing to do. This can be tricky because it’s a complicated and hard thing skill to learn.

Ideas - play games

* eye-spy
* how many of a certain word (eg ‘the’) can they find in a paragraph/short book
* start with cat and change one letter at a time to evolve the word eg:

cat – car – tar – tap – cap – cop – cot – pot – pit – pin etc

* Do puzzles and word searches together
* Have fun reading in different ‘voices’
* Put ‘passwords’ up around the house – a word to be read to access the TV/cupboard etc
1. **Model when and how adults or siblings read**

Idea

Reading is a life-skill – we read all the time – signs, packets, letters, forms. When you are reading something, read it aloud or read it with your child and highlight that reading is a life-skill – it’s useful!

1. **Make Personalised Books**

Ideas

Help children to make books about themselves or their interests and add simple text to a page with a photo or picture on. These books can be very motivating to children and a therefore a good motivator to get interested in reading.

1. **Set Up a Family Member ‘Pen Pal’**

 Idea

Set up a ‘pen pal’ with a family member via text or email – students will need to read the message to engage in the exchange and then write back.