



## Fall in Children Reading for Pleasure

(Credit: abridged from [The Guardian](#))

Children's reading enjoyment has fallen to its lowest level in almost two decades, with just one in three young people saying that they enjoy reading in their free time, according to a new survey.



**“We know that children who read for pleasure, and children who are read to, gain all kinds of benefits, from increased vocabulary to vastly improved mental wellbeing”,** said children's laureate Frank Cottrell-Boyce.

Children who read in their free time at least once a month said that it helps them to relax (56.6%) and feel happy (41%), learn new things (50.9%), understand the views of others (32.8%) and learn about other cultures (32.4%).

### So, what can you do to help your child? 10 Top Tips...

(Credit: abridged from [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

#### 1. Encourage your child to read

Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination and has educational benefits too. Just a few minutes a day can have a big impact on children of all ages.

#### 2. Read aloud regularly

Try to read to your child every day. It's a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading them and poring over the pictures. Try funny voices to bring characters to life.

#### 3. Encourage reading choice

Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.

#### 4. Read together

Choose a favourite time to read together as a family and enjoy it. This might be everyone reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time, or getting your children to read to each other. This time spent reading together can be relaxing for all.

#### 5. Create a comfortable environment

Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently - or together.

#### 6. Make use of your local library

Visit them when you're able to and explore all sorts of reading ideas. Local libraries also offer brilliant online materials, including audiobooks and ebooks to borrow.

#### 7. Talk about books

Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything.

#### 8. Bring reading to life

You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Would you recommend it to a friend? Play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.

#### 9. Make reading active

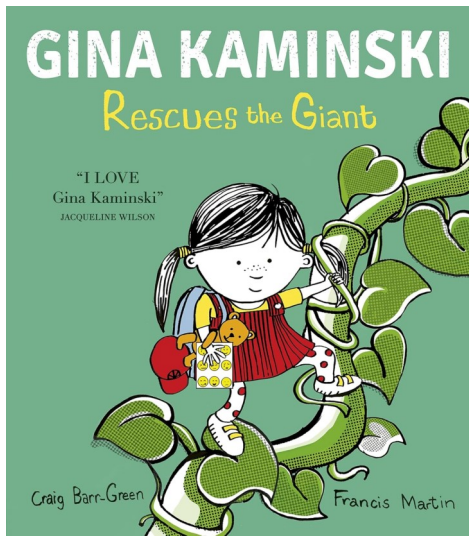
Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you're reading. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.

#### 10. Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them

You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. Short, creative activities may be the way to get them most interested. If English is an additional language, encourage reading in a child's first language, as well as in English. What matters most is that they enjoy it.

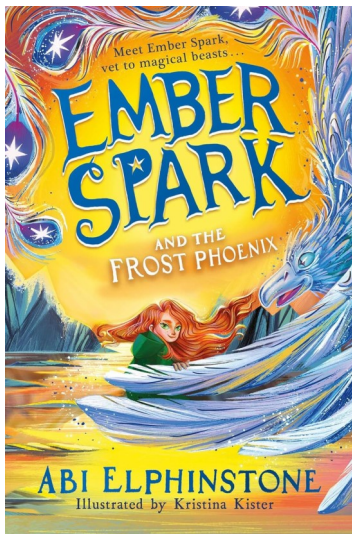
## BOOKS I'M EXCITED ABOUT...

Do you end up with a larger and larger pile of books to read like Mr Loughlin? Here's a small snippet from his list of books he's currently looking forward to reading.



I loved Gina Kaminski Saves the Wolf when it came out last year. I've read it to Year 6, Year 3, Whanau groups, in an assembly and everyone loves Gina and her adventure. Basically, if a group of children have stopped near me for long enough since I've owned the book, I've read it to them!

3L have now already heard the next book, **Gina Kaminski Rescues the Giant**, but I'm looking forward to reading it around the school and lending to other teachers. Remember, picture books aren't just for younger readers!



I've been reading 3L Ember Spark and the Thunder of Dragons as our class reading book and the sequel came out late last year. Abi Elphinstone has written great book after great book in my opinion, so **Ember Spark and the Frost Phoenix** is a must-read for me.

Ember Spark and her friend Arno live in the town of Yawn and are apprentices to Rusty Fizzbang, vet to magical beasts. They're out once again to stop Jasper Hornswoggle from getting up to no good. Let's face it, we should all want to read this for the character names alone!

In 3L, we're always thinking up great questions linked to our learning. We were talking one day about why babies have 300 bones but grown ups have about 206 and then I saw this book, **There's No Such Thing as a Silly Question**, answering that very question. It's full of a whole range of unusual and interesting questions and they've all been fact checked by the University of Cambridge.

I often like to have a book I dip in and out of whilst reading something else and this fits the bill for that.



## Battle of the Books

In November, Years 4, 5 and 6 began a Battle of the Books. Over the next couple of months, children in these year groups are being encouraged to read as many of the 'Battle Books' as they can. There will then be a vote amongst all the children in those year groups to decide the winner of the Battle of the Books!



Here's the advice the children have been given at school to help them take part:

Choose a book from the Battle of the Books display (in the Year 4 cloakroom area).

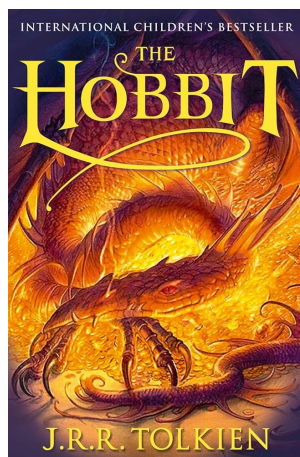
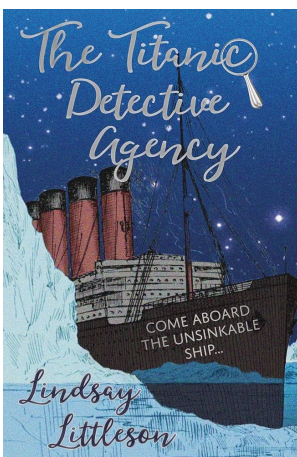
Take it home to read - you do not need to have it scanned like a library book.

Look after the book.

Bring it back when you finish and swap it for a new choice.

Tell your friends about books you've enjoyed so they can read it too.

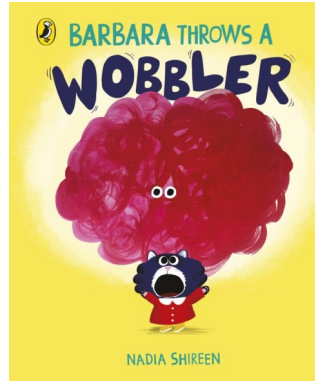
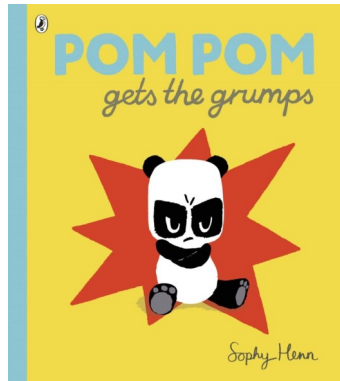
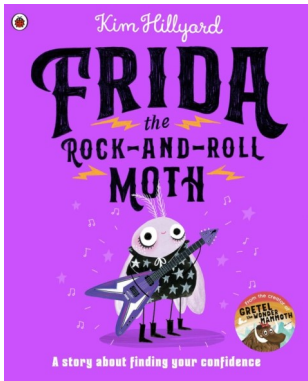
A few of the books on offer...



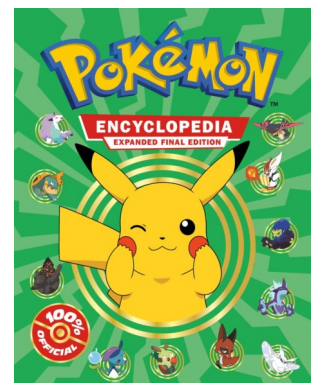
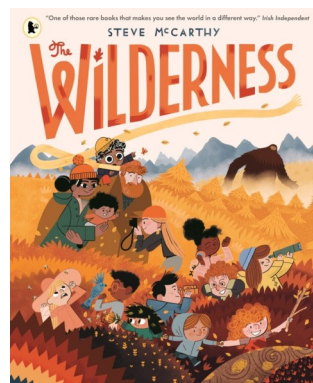
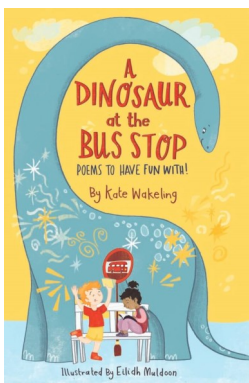
## RECOMMENDED READS...

The World Book Day website has a whole list of books ([click here](#)) recommended by the authors of this year's World Book Day books. They've separated them into sections for different levels of reading confidence to help you pick the right book for yourself or your little book worm. Here are a few of their suggestions but there's a lot more on the website.

### Beginning Reader



### Early Reader



### Fluent Reader

