

**Syresham St James CE Primary
School**



**Tips for getting boys
to read**



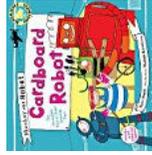
Research shows that boys are less likely to enjoy reading than girls. More boys than girls struggle with reading and writing at school and boys are more likely to say they don't spend any time reading outside the classroom.

So what can parents do to encourage their boys to read and to enjoy books?

Here are our Top Tips:

1. Make reading active

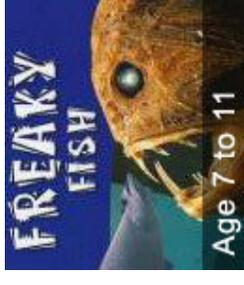
Boys thrive on activity, so incorporate this into reading time. Get your sons to “act out” what they have read, and pretend to be book characters – you can join in too! For younger children, after reading a book, draw the characters together, or even make puppets and put on a show.



In *Cardboard Robot*, Monkey doesn't want to play – can Robot change his mind? This picture book with press out pieces is interactive fun for new readers.



Nosy Crow Publishing's fabulous 'Mega Mash Up' series combine popular children's interests in fun and interactive stories. You can even add your own illustrations!



Actual Size
Steve Jenkins

The Cat Who Got Carried Away
Allan Ahlberg

Ug Raymond Briggs



War Horse Michael Morpurgo

Diary of a Wimpy Kid Jeff Kinney

Danny the Champion of the World
Roald Dahl

Asterix at the Olympic Games
Rene Goscinny and Albert Uderzo

Reading recommendations for boys



There Was an Old Lady who Swallowed a Fly

Pam Adams

Busy Airport

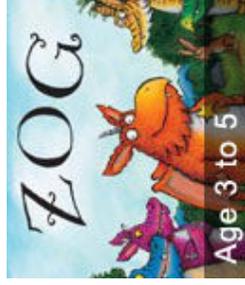
Rebecca Finn

My Dad

Anthony Browne

Chocolate Mousse for Greedy Goose

Julia Donaldson and Nick Sharratt



Surprising Sharks

Nicola Davies and James Croft

Weather

Catriona Clarke

The Little Red Train: The Runaway Train

Benedict Blathway

Mister Magnolia

Quentin Blake

2. Provide male reading role models

Male role models are really important. Fathers, grandfathers, uncles and older brothers can all play their part by letting younger boys see them reading. It doesn't matter if it's the newspaper, a book or a recipe. In copying reading behaviour boys will gain confidence and get to be great readers too.



The *Tintin* comic strip books are a brilliant way of drawing reluctant readers into gripping tales featuring a fearless boy and his dog Snowy.



A graphic novel adaptation of Horowitz's gripping adventure story *Stormbreaker*, beautifully illustrated in a modern manga style.

3. It doesn't have to be just books

Reading is reading, no matter what it is. Magazines and comics are a great way to encourage boys to read as they tend to be visual learners. Try visiting www.comicmaster.org.uk to make your own! Reading doesn't have to mean just sitting down with a book; words are everywhere. Use road signs, posters, television guides and shopping lists to get your boys reading.

4. Give lots of praise

Boys thrive on praise and will love getting attention for positive behaviours! When he is reading well, give him encouragement and be specific rather than general about the praise you are giving. If a boy can understand exactly what he has done to earn the praise he will learn more quickly. Make it clear that if he makes a mistake reading he is not a failure – that's the way you learn.

5. Use an interest as a hook

If there is a hobby or sport your son likes, find relevant fictional or non-fictional books that will appeal to him. Whether your boy likes soldiers, nature, aeroplanes, pirates or motorbikes, go to the library together and look for books on the subject. Many boys enjoy football and you can see our recommended football books [here](#).



Join characters from Star Wars: The Clone Wars and prove yourself worthy of your Jedi training. A “choose your own adventure” with links to online games.



A fantastic book for all space fans, this book looks at the universe through a mixture of innovative comic-style illustrations and entertaining text.

6. Build regular reading time into the day

Set aside a regular time to read with boys and listen to them reading. Ask younger boys to point out things in the pictures. Don't stop reading with boys once they can read themselves, as boys can switch off from reading once they know the basics. Keep them interested by talking about the plot, asking who their favourite character is and what a different end to a story might be.

7. Experiment with genres

Encourage boys to try out a variety of books and authors to see what suits their taste - fast-paced adventure, horror and science-fiction are often popular, as are fact-based books such as the Guinness Book of Records



This science-based book examines common fears (e.g. spiders) and the statistical likelihood of bad things happening – a reassuring read for anxious children!