

# Is your child a reluctant reader?

By RUTH LIPPITT

They need to know that you read both because you have to and because you want to. Your life would be more difficult and less enjoyable if you couldn't read. You value reading and so should they.

Then you need to make sure that they find pleasure in reading. That reading is not just reading their school book for ten minutes every day struggling through the new and difficult words then taking it back to have it changed for the next book whether they have enjoyed, or even understood it, or not.

Read to your child as often as you can – easy books, hard books, fiction and non-fiction, newspapers, letters, instructions – whatever they want. Not what you enjoy but what they enjoy, what they show an interest in. Even when they are starting to read for themselves don't stop reading to them. You can read better than they can. You can understand what you read so you read with expression and that helps your child to understand. When you read they can focus on the meaning and not just the words. When you read it is altogether more interesting.

Are you struggling to find the time? I'm afraid no one can help you to find more hours in a day. We all have to make choices. Choose to change your reluctant reader into a ravenous reader.

**For further information on ways you can help your child with reading and the other important core subjects of Maths & English you can contact The Student Support Centre on Freephone 0800 13 22 77.**



IAN CARTWRIGHT WWW.CARAMELPHOTO.COM

**Learning to read should be an exciting challenge – cracking the code that can open up the magical world of books. But all too often it is a chore and some children will go to great lengths to avoid reading at all. So what is going wrong? Why don't our children want to read?**

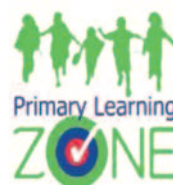
Well here are some questions for you to think about:

- Do you, or any of the other adults in your child's life, ever sit down and enjoy a book?
- If you do, do you read when your child is there or only when they are somewhere else & you can get a bit of peace and quiet?
- Do they see you read the newspaper, a magazine, a recipe book or instruction manual?
- If they don't see you reading then why do they need to learn to read? It is obviously not all that important.

For a child, reading can be just another apparently pointless thing you have to learn to do when you go to school. Learning that the wiggly marks on the page are letters that make sounds that can be put together to make words soon becomes rather tedious unless they can see a reason for doing it.

Sadly, some of the adults who are encouraging children to read, both at school and at home, can make the problem worse. They know just how important it is that children learn to read so they focus on decoding – working out what words say – and forget the reason why it is so important. We learn to read so that we can understand writing – books, notices, letters, newspapers, magazines, websites, adverts, email, texts - the list is endless.

So how do we help our children to focus on the prize while they are learning to read? Well that takes us back to those questions again. We need to help them to understand that it is reading and not learning to read that is important so we need to show them what they have to gain.



Professional, private tuition agency run by an experienced teacher for local families

- Specialists in primary education (ages 4-11).
- Initial discussion on your child's individual learning needs.
- Planned programme of work.
- Regular progress reviews.

Read what our families say on our website [www.primarylearningzone.com](http://www.primarylearningzone.com)  
All of our tutors are CRB checked.

**0161-448-7090**  
E: [ann@primarylearningzone.com](mailto:ann@primarylearningzone.com)