

Top Tips for getting your Teenagers reading!

Set an example. Let your kids see you reading for pleasure.

Furnish your home with a variety of reading materials. Leave books, magazines, and newspapers around. Check to see what disappears for a clue to what interests your teenager.

Give teens an opportunity to choose their own books. When you and your teen are out together browse in a bookstore or library. Go your separate ways and make your own selections. A bookstore gift certificate is a nice way of saying, "You choose."

Build on your teen's interests. Look for books and articles that feature their favourite sports teams, rock stars, hobbies, or TV shows. Give a gift subscription to a special interest magazine.

View pleasure reading as a value in itself. Almost anything your youngsters read—including the Sunday comics—helps build reading skills.

Read some books written for teens. Young adult novels can give you valuable insights into the concerns and pressures felt by teenagers. You may find that these books provide a neutral ground on which to talk about sensitive subjects.

Make reading aloud a natural part of family life. Share an article you clipped from the paper, a poem, a letter, or a random page from an encyclopaedia—without turning it into a lesson.

Acknowledge your teen's mature interests. Look for ways to acknowledge the emerging adult in your teens by suggesting some adult reading you think they can handle.

Keep the big picture in mind. For all sorts of reasons, some teenagers go through periods without showing much interest in reading. Don't panic! Time, and a few tips from this brochure, may help rekindle their interest.

More thoughts on encouraging teens to read...

Talk to your teen about what he/she is reading. What is he/she enjoying about the book? What is puzzling about it? What does it make him/her think about?

Give your teen many opportunities to choose books and other reading material that they like. Remember that teens like to read about topics and ideas that are important to them. Look for ways to help them discover interesting

Think about what gives you pleasure as a reader. When you have a book you love, talk about it with your teen. What do you love about it? What does it make you think about?

Read something together with your teen. Read, think and talk together about books, magazines or other reading material that you both enjoy.