

# 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.