

Video transcript - Coach on the couch

Reading coach 1:

Hi everyone. Welcome to Coach on the couch. My name is Amy. I'm a Reading and Writing Coach here at the Reading Centre. One of the services the Reading Centre provides is an advisory service to parents. Recently we have received a number of enquiries from parents who want to support their children reading and writing at home. Joining me on the couch today is my colleague, also a Reading and Writing Coach Wendy. Thanks for joining us Wendy.

So Wendy we have a number of parents supporting their young children in Prep to Year 2 at home. What tips can you provide to parents to get started?

Reading coach 2:

Before I begin, it's important that we keep in mind the health and wellbeing of our children. We want reading and writing at home to be an enjoyable experience for both the parent and carer and the child. It's important to avoid unnecessary tension and anxiety.

Reading coach 1:

Absolutely. So is it important that we set up a routine around reading and writing?

Reading coach 2:

Young children thrive on routine. Think about **establishing a routine** and developing some good reading habits. Make time in the day to include some independent reading and writing, and perhaps a bedtime story at night. Reading together can be fun and a great way to bond with your child.

Reading coach 1:

Do parents need to set up a special space in the home for reading and writing?

Reading coach 2:

Not at all Amy. Parents can consider the space they already have. Maybe a comfy couch with cushions, or a bean bag with some soft toys that children can read to. Children can write at the kitchen table or take a picnic rug outside with chalk or crayons. Consider giving your child a space to store and display their books and materials that is easily accessible. You may like to give them a basket or a box for their books.

Reading coach 1:

So for storage I've got a magazine box here that I have places some crayons, some other writing materials and a selection of books for children to be able to choose from in the home.. What types of books should parents be putting in the book box for children?

Reading coach 2:

I recommend children have access to a range of reading materials that they can read independently as well as stories that can be read aloud to them. This can include picture books and information books, magazines, comics, and also audio books and e-books. Choose books that contain new words to build your child's language and understanding. Think about the topics that interest your child? Consider choosing short stories as well as longer stories or a series of books.

If children have been reading a story, have them talk, write or draw about what they have read.

Reading coach 1:

Great. So a range and a variety of books in the box. If we've got parents who just want to get started with reading and writing in the home, have you got some tips for them?

Reading coach 2:

In the kitchen, children can read and follow a recipe or read the labels and information from ingredients in the pantry. A family board game involves reading and writing. Other ideas include following instructions to create an artwork, or reading a seed pack and following instructions to plant vegetables in the garden. A great idea to extend the learning is to have children talk, draw, photograph or write about these experiences. They can even create their own books or scrapbooks. Children love to read things they've written themselves.

Reading coach 1:

They certainly do, and to see their writing displayed as well. So Wendy you've given us some really great tips just to get started. Where can parents go to if they want to find a little bit more information?

Reading coach 2:

Parents can access the Reading Centre website or they can contact the Reading Centre at reading.centre@qed.qld.gov.au

Reading coach 1:

Wendy, thanks so much for sharing your tips today and for giving us your time and thank you to you for joining Wendy and I for Coach on the couch.