

# Help your child **LOVE TO READ**

## **Family Literacy**

The reading, writing, watching and talking that families do together

**Lire/Imagine/Read** – a literacy-promotion project at the Montreal Children’s Hospital (MCH) linking health and reading – is run through a partnership between the MCH and The Centre for Literacy. It is associated with the Social Pediatrics Program at the hospital.



*For children 6 to 9 years old*

## **Learning to read is exciting and fun.**

**Here are some ways you can help your child:**

- Set an example: Read in front of your children! Talk about what you read in the paper, online or in books.
- With younger children, point to the words as you are reading. Talk about the sounds of the letters and words.
- Read together every day, even when your child starts to read alone, and encourage your child to read to you.
- Ask questions about what is happening in the books you read together.
- Keep your child’s books in an easy-to-reach bookcase or “treasure chest” by the bed.
- Ask your child to help you make your -grocery list, measure food in a recipe, read street signs, check the calendar or the cereal box, anything that shows how reading connects to everyday life.
- Play word games like Scrabble or Boggle, and do crosswords together.
- Limit TV, computer and cell phone time: Watch some TV shows together, play games together on the computer, but make time for books.
- Learn about things that interest your child and talk about them together.
- As your child gets older, and may want to read comics, graphic novels, or sports magazines, don’t discourage this kind of reading. Still, introduce your child to -classic stories and to both fiction and non-fiction.
- Visit the library together.
- Encourage family members and friends to give books or magazine subscriptions as gifts.

- Discuss any reading and writing difficulties with your child’s teacher and doctor.
- If you have trouble reading, ask for help. It’s never too late to improve.

### **Why children need to read:**

- to learn about the world
- to find answers to their questions
- to succeed in school and in life
- as part of a healthy life: “Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.”  
– Richard Steele

### **More information**

[http://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/promoting\\_reading\\_in\\_school\\_aged\\_children](http://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/promoting_reading_in_school_aged_children)

<http://www.readingrockets.org/>

<http://abclifeliteracy.ca/tips-and-activities>

### **More information on LIR**

<http://www.thechildren.com/en/patients/lire-imagine-read-project>



L’Hôpital de Montréal pour enfants  
The Montreal Children’s Hospital  
Centre universitaire de santé McGill  
McGill University Health Centre

[www.thechildren.com](http://www.thechildren.com)



**The Centre for Literacy**  
Le centre d’alphabétisation  
[www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca](http://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca)