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.

For children 6 to 9 years old

• 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.readingrockets.org/
http://abclifeliteracy.ca/tips-and-activities

More information on LIR