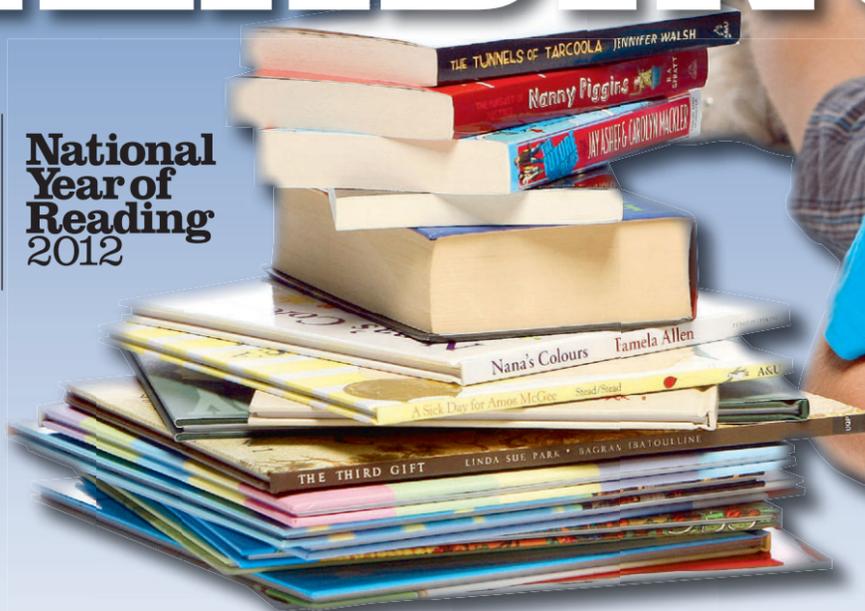




It's the National Year of Reading and there's never been a better time to help your child develop a love of books with these tips from the team at LINC Tasmania and your local library.



National Year of Reading 2012



Why read with children?

- It builds babies' brains.
- Babies love to hear your voice – it helps to build a closer bond and relationship.
- It's a great time to cuddle and share.
- You'll have fun!

Build the reading habit

- Read to your kids every day – any time.
- Stories at bedtime help young children settle and get ready for sleeping.
- Choose books with rhyme, rhythm and repetition.
- Point at and talk about the pictures.
- Read the same books over and over.
- Use funny voices and sounds.
- Babies like books with pictures of babies.
- Toddlers like books with bright colours and pictures of everyday objects.
- Encourage your child to turn the pages.
- Pack a book in your bag, car or anywhere.
- Take your kids to your local LINC or library.
- Relax and have fun.

Tips for reading with babies, toddlers and preschoolers

- It's never too early to start reading to your baby.
- Babies are never too young to enjoy books (even before they are born!).
- It's free to join your local LINC or library.
- Children can have their own library card from birth.
- LINC and libraries have a great range of Baby Book Packs designed for different age groups
- Enrol your child in a school readiness program such as "Launch Into Learning", at your local school.
- Community Houses also provide

programs for children and their parents

- Point out and read aloud things such as signs, labels on items in supermarkets and so on.

What books are good for babies?

- Lift-the-flap books.
- Touch and feel books.
- Song, rhyme, letter and number books.
- 0–1 years – strong, wipe-clean board books.
- 1–2 years – big, bright picture books with a few words.

Free activities for babies, toddlers and preschoolers at LINC and libraries around Tasmania

Rock & Rhyme. For babies and toddlers 0–24 months. 30 minutes of songs, music, rhymes, rhythm, fun and even dance. Get to know other parents and carers.

Storytime. For preschoolers 2–5 years. 30 minutes of stories, songs, dance and nursery rhymes. A great chance to pick up tips on how to make family reading time more fun. You and your kids can make new friends. For session times visit www.linc.tas.gov.au

Tips for reading with primary-aged children

- Read to your kids every day – most primary school aged children still enjoy being read to and sharing books with adults.
- Encourage them to read every day to build the reading habit.
- Play karaoke games.
- Visit your local LINC or library to select

books for free. Staff can assist with choosing books and other resources.

- Read a range of texts with your child: recipes; newspapers; magazines; online material; books – fiction and non-fiction; poetry; songs – such as the lyrics to their favourite music; nursery rhymes for very young school-aged children.
- Link reading to everyday life experiences: cooking; information-seeking; homework; answer those difficult questions by looking up the answer in a book or online; reading and writing shopping lists for the supermarket; environmental print, such as signs, labels on items in supermarkets and so on.
- Reading just before bedtime is a great way to build a regular reading time into the day.
- Turn on the teletext function on the TV.
- Support the classroom program – home readers help your child to practise their reading skills and gain the confidence needed to become independent readers.
- Encourage participation in the MS Readathon, the Premier's Reading Challenge and LINC Tasmania's Summer Reading Club.
- It's great for adults to model reading behaviour – if your kids see you read regularly, they will see it as a positive thing to do.

Tips for reading with teenagers

- Start introducing audio books, ebooks, manga and graphic novels
- Suggest they read the book of the movie (such as *Twilight*, *The Hunger Games*, *Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants*)
- Authors' websites often provide extra information about characters, storylines

and new series as well as competitions and writing opportunities.

- Make sure your teenager has a library card and knows where the local LINC or library is – remind them they can use the computers for free.
- Most LINC and some libraries have a youth area where you can find youth related material, including books, magazines, DVDs and CDs.
- Older teens often like reading fantasy and adventure titles but not all series are suitable for this age group – ask local LINC or library staff for age appropriate suggestions.
- Remember that reading blogs and online sites provide great recreational reading opportunities.

Talk about books with your child/ren

- What are they reading at school?
- What is the teacher reading to the class?
- What did you read at your school library lesson today?
- Discuss the characters in a book – what do you like/dislike about them?
- What types of information can you find out from books?
- Be patient and praise your child's reading efforts.
- If you have concerns about your child's reading, talk to their classroom teacher.

LINC Tasmania offers free advice, activities and support to children, young people, families and individuals, including adult literacy tuition.

