



Booktrust's Top Tips for Bedtime Reading with Independent Readers

When should you stop reading aloud to children? When they leave home...

It is really important to share the pleasure of reading aloud with your child even when they can read by themselves. They will enjoy hearing stories that are beyond their current ability as well as old favourites.

Whatever you choose, sharing a story at bedtime is a chance for you to relax and enjoy a special moment together with your child before bed. Make it something to look forward to – and remember to enjoy this time together!

- Being physically close is still important as children grow older. Sharing a story is a chance to have a cuddle! Try to make sure there aren't any distractions – best to turn off the TV!
- Share fiction books, poetry and non-fiction books about things that interest your child. Talking about the story is a great way of making sure they understand.
- Let your child choose the books they want you to read with them, it will make them feel involved. You could sometimes limit the choice to one you now you will enjoy too!
- At this stage you can enjoy sharing exciting books with chapters that leave you all wanting more.

For more tips and advice on great rhymes and books to share with your child visit our website at www.bedtimereading.org.uk

There will come a time when your children will want to read by themselves at bedtime. The Booktrust Children's Website gives lots of information about great books www.booktrustchildrensbooks.org.uk

Some useful websites with book reviews by children are:

- www.readit.org.uk – young people write reviews which can be made available for others online
- www.cool-reads.co.uk – with hundreds of reviews by 10 – 15 year olds
- www.barringtonstoke.co.uk/content/parents_leaflet_5.pdf - great advice for reluctant readers

Bedtime is an ideal opportunity to encourage reluctant readers to look at books. Why not suggest that bedtime and lights out can be delayed by half an hour if they are looking at a book? Before you know it they will be under the covers with a torch, reading into the night!