

READING OLD FAVOURITES

As parents or guardians, we are excited when our children take their next leap in reading – from listening to someone read to them, to reading on their own; from reading picture books to reading chapter books. Children enjoy these leaps forward as well. But if reading for pleasure is going to become a lifelong habit, children need to read some books that aren't at the upper limit of their new-found reading skills – books they can enjoy without having to work hard at it.

Ask your child to name a favourite story “from when they were little.” If it is a book they have, read it again together. Take your cue from them. Would they like to curl up in your lap and listen to you read it to them? Are they excited about reading it to you?

If it is a book you do not own, make a trip together to check it out at your local library so you can share it again.

Let them know it is fun for you to share an old favourite with them. Is there a book you really enjoyed reading to them when they were younger? Is there a favourite book you remember from your childhood? Talking about favourite books is one way to make reading fun. If you haven't done much reading together, it is never too late to start!

Tell them about choices you make in picking your own pleasure reading. We all read some materials because we have to, but when we are reading for pleasure, we can choose mysteries, science fiction or novels. We can choose books about hobbies or interests – cooking, sewing, sports, music. Adults sometimes choose to revisit old favourites as well.

Jot down your child's favourites from when they were little. Make it a point to invite your child to revisit these favourites, and to add new ones to the list.

MY FAVOURITE BOOKS FROM WHEN I WAS LITTLE ...

This tip sheet is being brought to you by the YMCA. YMCAs across Canada serve over 500,000 children in various programs. YMCA Canada is a member of the Abundant Assets Alliance, a partnership of YMCA Canada, the YMCA of the USA and Search Institute, working together to help young people obtain the 40 developmental assets that they need in order to thrive. To learn more about the developmental assets and how you can help your child build these assets, visit www.abundantassets.org.

One of the developmental assets that helps young people thrive is “Reading for Pleasure.” This series of tip sheets and the resource, *Raising Kids Who Read*, created by YMCA Canada, helps adults build this asset with the young people in their lives. To download copies of any of these resources, go to http://www.ymca.ca/eng_ycdaresources.htm#Res6.



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strong families, strong communities.