

SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S READING SKILLS THROUGH FOOTBALL

Award-winning children's author Tom Palmer shares his top tips to get your kids excited about reading and writing using the power of football!



Become a football detective



Challenge your child to find out as much as they can about their favourite footballer: their age, their best goal celebration – even their most famous haircut! Encourage them to find out fun facts about their favourite player by reading newspaper articles, searching for information online and visiting the library.

It's OK to substitute a book that isn't match fit



Don't force your child to finish a book they aren't enjoying. Go to your local library and let your child try out lots of different styles and ways of reading – from autobiographies and audiobooks to novels and ebooks.

Write your way into football history



Football is filled with magical moments, difficult decisions, opinions and statistics. After a big game, help your child use their love of the game to write a match report, a newspaper article or a script for a radio report about what happened.

Don't show reading the red card



All types of reading counts, so if your child enjoys comics, graphic novels, magazines and match day programmes, as well as books, that's good too! Ask your child's teacher or your local library for recommendations that will get your child excited about reading.

Turn reading into a team effort



Reading together with your child, even after they can read for themselves, helps you bond, share stories together and shows your child that stories are important, powerful and – above all – fun!



Tom Palmer is the winner of the Ruth Rendell Award 2019, an annual award for the author who has had the most significant influence on literacy in the UK in the past year. The award is run by the National Literacy Trust and the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society in honour of the author Ruth Rendell who tirelessly championed literacy throughout her lifetime.