



## Calibre Audio and Bucks Schools Audiobook Project 2024

### Supporting your child to read for pleasure with audiobooks

Every child is different so there are no hard and fast rules, but these suggestions may help:

#### Support your child to get set up

- Talk to them about the different options for listening - streaming or downloads via apps on phones or tablets – let them decide on the method that appeals most.
- If needed, help them download the app/find the streaming site and log in.
- Talk them through how to find and listen to books - the Calibre website has some useful Quick Guides to help with this in the 'How to Listen' section.
- Contact Membership Services on 01296 432339, or email them on [membershipservices@calibre.org.uk](mailto:membershipservices@calibre.org.uk) if you have any issues.

#### Suggestions for listening

- Create a comfortable reading space they can go to where they won't be distracted or disturbed.
- Identify a regular time for reading that would work for them – people with dyslexia often like routines.
- Use headphones to cut out external distractions and help them focus.
- Reading the printed book at the same time as listening to the audiobook helps with word decoding and recognition so is a useful thing, particularly for school set texts etc, but only if your child is open to it and it doesn't put them off.
- If it suits your child better, they can listen on the move - on the way to school, on a car journey, while exercising or even helping out around the house.
- Depending on your child's listening skills, you may need to start with short sessions and build up.
- In today's visual and fast-moving world, just listening doesn't come easy to everyone. Encourage perseverance – it will be worth it.

#### How to help with book choices:

- Support your child to ensure they have the technical skills to find books, add them to a list and play them.

- Suggest different categories you think they might be interested in.
- Talk to them about their preferences - there are many different sorts of books to try and you might not hit the jackpot at first, but keep exploring. We've included a few starter suggestions but offer encouragement and support to find the books that will really interest them - fiction or non-fiction.
- Experiment with different narrators - do they prefer male or female, do they like a particular voice? This is really important, especially at the beginning. Many of the books are narrated by authors or celebrities - these might work well initially to capture their attention and help them get used to audio.
- Choose book series to sustain interest and encourage them to move on to the next book quickly
- Show interest in what they're reading.
- Ask them to talk about the characters and the plot.
- Encourage them to think about what will happen next, as this will stimulate the desire to see if they are right.
- Sign them up for Calibre newsletters which are full of information about new books. We're planning to introduce news bulletins for parents too - so sign up for these as well.

Once familiar with finding their way around and choosing books, your child has access to a huge resource to expand their minds, knowledge and skills. Here are the thoughts of some other parents:

***"My daughter now has access to a wonderful world of books. She can talk with her peers about common interest books. It gives her confidence and is helping to develop her love for literature. This service has made a huge difference."***

***"Discovering Calibre Audio has been an absolute game changer for us. The gift of a book is so much more than the pages it's written on. It supports education, self-esteem, social interaction. And it boosts a child's confidence. You can see that in Toby every day as he explores and grows despite the huge hurdles he faces. We all feel more optimistic about the future now."***

The most important thing is to give plenty of praise and encouragement, show interest and encourage perseverance. Good luck!

Let us know if there is more we can do to support you or your child. We're here for you and we're always looking for feedback to improve what we do.

Contact us on: [marketing@calibre.org.uk](mailto:marketing@calibre.org.uk)