



LITTLE BOOKWORM

These two Dubai mums are helping parents to incubate a love for reading in children by launching a pre-loved books service called Bookends. We spoke to them about how to keep kids passionate about the written word

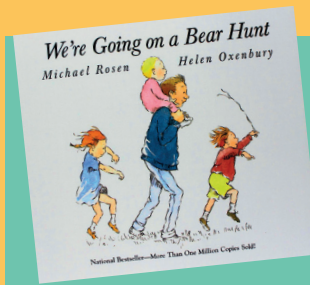
What are the most popular books for toddlers on Bookends?

"Toddlers are busy little people with a lot of curiosity and desire to learn about the world. They need books that are very engaging and help them understand what they see, hear or feel. Finding the right book can be challenging, but it is the perfect time to spark the love of reading. Our top pick would be *Going On a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury."



What are the main reasons children stop reading?

"By the age of six or seven, children are ready to conquer the world. They want more action and to explore new things. What they need is a huge variety of different books. They don't want to repeat anymore. New books are expensive and it's not very economical to buy new books that the kids are outgrowing so quickly. Firstly, provide them with as much variety as possible. Secondly, be involved in their reading time. Parents can even provide some incentives similar to what schools have, such as certificates and awards."



TOP FIVE BOOKS FOR TODDLERS

Going on a Bear Hunt

by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury.

The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson

The Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

The Tiger Who Came to Tea by Judith Kerr

The Cat in the Hat by Dr Seuss

TOP FIVE BOOKS FOR AGES THREE TO FIVE

Green Eggs and Ham by Dr Seuss

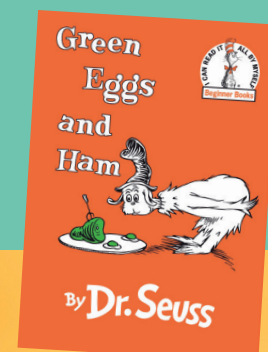
Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae

Where Is The Green Sheep? by Mem Fox

Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Book? by Lauren Child

Llamas in Pyjamas by Russel Punter

Dr Seuss's ABC by Dr Seuss



Can you give us five tips for encouraging reading at home?

1 "It is very important for the children to see their parents reading, so they imitate them."

2 "Read to the children and try to bring actions into the story."

3 "Establish a reward system that will be visible for the children, where they add the stars by themselves in order to create competition within themselves, resulting in a gift, or a treat."

4 "Ask your children to recreate the story in their own words with some changes to the ending, for example, so they can use their imagination for a different ending and maybe print it out for them."

5 "Let the children act the story with friends, or create a script about the story."

What are the top-selling self-help books for adults on Bookends?

1. *The 8th Habit* by Stephen Covey
2. *The Secret* by Rhonda Byrne
3. *The Power of Now* by Eckhart Tolle

Why was it important to you to start Bookends?

"Reading is a treat for the soul and the mind and should never be taken for granted. As Dr. Seuss said: 'The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.' Bookends is a marketplace for buying and selling pre-loved books. We have books for all ages and genres. We want to bring back the love of reading by making books more affordable and we want to save the world one book at a time by reusing them."

Visit www.bookends.ae