

# ESOL/EAL and the National Year of Reading 2026

The National Year of Reading is a UK-wide campaign designed to help more people rediscover the joy of reading.

The National Literacy Trust has put together this resource with top tips, networks, resources and further reading to support those learning English as a second or other language.

## Tips for the National Year of Reading

- **Multi-modal:** this year is about the joy of reading! That doesn't have to mean books. Oral storytelling, listening to audiobooks and podcasts, drawing and reading comics, graphic novels and illustrated books can all be great ways to go all in.
- **Start with themes and interests:** this could be food, sport or music, and draw out stories and reading ideas from there. You could read lyrics while listening to music, read sports results and news or read and share recipes and food stories.
- **Multilingual:** if you are setting up a community book share, lending library or sharing book recommendations, encourage reading materials in all languages. You could translate some of your signs and messaging into local community languages to ensure you're reaching those who are less confident reading in English.
- **Many adult learners** may be more confident with reading in their native language; encouraging reading in their own language is also part of the National Year of Reading – this can be through books, oral storytelling, reading news online or reading and sharing books with children.
- **Reading as a family:** encouraging less confident readers to practise reading by reading children's books to their children can be a great incentive for learning and an accessible resource for learning new words.
- **Reading for connection:** the National Year of Reading is an opportunity to bring people together around reading, this could include sharing stories from different cultures, or even songs, recipes or memories.



## Free resources for supporting reading for pleasure

- **Time together booklet** for parents reading with children aged 3-5, available in 26 different languages. [Time together for multilingual families](#)
- **Chat, play, read booklet** for parents reading with children under 3, available in 19 different languages. [literacytrust.org.uk/resources/chat-play-read-booklet](http://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/chat-play-read-booklet)
- **BBC Learning English Reading Room** is a free online course to improve reading if English is your second language. [BBC Learning English Reading room](#)
- **Discussion guides to go alongside Quick Reads:** [Resources - The Reading Agency](#)
- **Free audiobooks, newspapers and magazines:** available through your local library via Borrow Box or Libby apps. Most secondary schools can also loan books via apps.
- **Poetry in translation** promotes, explores and translates poems from the diverse cultures and languages of the UK: [Poetry in Translation](#)
- **The Stephen Spender Prize** An annual competition for poetry in translation that celebrates the creativity of young people across the UK and Ireland: [Stephen Spender Trust](#)
- **Poetry By Heart:** explore a range of poems for different ages, you can also find videos of the poems being performed aloud: [Poetry By Heart | 14+ Timeline](#)



## Publishers

- **Gatehouse:** [Gatehouse Books | The Adult Literacy Specialist](#)
- **Learning Unlimited:** [Graded ESOL readers - Learning Unlimited](#)
- **Mantra Lingua:** [Mantra Lingua | Bilingual Books for Children & Multilingual Learning Tools](#)
- **Quick Reads:** [The Reading Agency Bookshop UK](#)
- **Macmillan graded readers** are a series of reading books at all levels from beginner to advanced. Suitable for young and adult ESOL/EAL learners: [Macmillan graded readers](#)
- **Oxford University Press graded readers** include titles at all levels for adults, teenagers and young learners: [OUP graded readers catalogue](#)



## Support for learning to read

- **Read Easy** offer reading lessons with trained volunteers: [Read Easy learning to read](#)
- **BBC Skillswise (reading) for adult learners:** [BBC Skillswise](#)
- **ESOL reading courses:** [ESOL Courses](#)
- **ESOL reading books:** [gatehousebooks.co.uk/collections/esol-readers](http://gatehousebooks.co.uk/collections/esol-readers)

## Networks and advice for practitioners

- **NATELCA** (association for ESOL teachers): [NATECLA](#)
- **NALDIC** (association for EAL teachers): [NALDIC](#)
- **The Bell Foundation** provides training and teaching and learning resources for both EAL and ESOL teachers: [BELL Foundation ESOL work](#)
- **Skills for Life network:** [Resource Directory - Skills for Life Network](#)
- **Council of Europe Culture** and language advice for working with refugees: [coe.int/en/web/language-support-for-adult-refugees/cultural-and-language-awareness](http://coe.int/en/web/language-support-for-adult-refugees/cultural-and-language-awareness)



- **Find out more:** [National Year of Reading 2026 | Go All In](#)
- **Pledge your support:** [Pledge your support | National Year of Reading 2026](#)
- **Share your events:** [What's on | Events Calendar | National Year of Reading 2026](#)

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