

# REAL LIFE TIPS

## Couch Potato or Bookworm

Parents need to consider how much they influence the future behaviour of their children by setting an example. Children tend to copy their parents' behaviour. If parents are readers, their children will be apt to read.

There is strong evidence that children raised in families that enjoy reading and writing as an activity are inclined to become good readers and writers. It is important that parents are seen to be reading and writing.

Parents who do not read often may wish to develop a new, positive habit for their deaf and hard of hearing children's sake. Even if parents are unable to increase their reading times, they can help their child by ensuring that books and reading material are easily available at home. Frequent trips to the local library can be a very inexpensive way to enrich the home with a focus toward reading. Children surrounded by books will be inclined to develop an interest in reading.

Early experiences with printed material develop a strong awareness of the value of print language in children. They need to observe adults and older children using print language; it shows them that it can be relaxing, enjoyable, provide useful information, and show them how to do things.

