



CHRISTINE PAXMANN & JOHANNES THIELE

HOW TO GET CHILDREN TO READ

To open the door to the magic realm of imagination, you need a key.

About the art to make children yearn for “the stuff as dreams are made of”.

Children need books – who would seriously want to argue against this? Books are a comfort, they open up worlds without costing one. But how do we teach that to our children who are more and more distracted and waste their time in front of computers and televisions?

For children the matter is simple: Books have to be cool. Therefore, it is of no use to lock the little ones up in the graveyard of forgotten books or torture them with well-meant presents. Not to mention, lamenting the good old days when we – allegedly – read so much more. We have to turn our children into addicts who cannot live without the “stuff as dreams are made of”, as Shakespeare used to put it. We have to read to them, then read with them, and in the end let them read on their own. Because “children do read what they want if they are allowed to do so.”

Every child who has gained his or her own access to books has mastered a huge step in their own intellectual development. And that is beside the emotional development, the most important gift we can give to our children.

▪ Don't bring books to the children, but *bring children to the books!* This book is a proper horn of plenty, packed with useful ideas – and with witty, cheeky, surprising, clever and irresistible inspirations.

Christine Paxmann (born 1961) studied German literature and linguistics and graphic design. After a short excursion into advertising, she found her true vocation: books. She is the editor in chief of *Eselsohr (Dog Ear)*, a renowned magazine for youth media.

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