

PIRLS 2016–Ireland

Reading in the Home Environment



As part of PIRLS 2016 in Ireland, parents of Fourth class pupils were asked how they felt about reading and how literacy was supported in their homes.

Did Parents Like Reading?

Parents had generally positive attitudes towards reading, with **47%** indicating that they liked reading **very much**, while **40%** indicated that they **somewhat** liked reading.



How Much Did Parents Read?

Almost half (**48%**) of parents spent **6+ hours** per week reading for work and/or leisure. Four out of five parents (**80%**) said that they read for enjoyment **at least once a week**. This could include reading on screens as well as on paper.



What Type of Early Literacy Activities Took Place at Home?

Over half of parents (**55%**) **often** completed literacy activities with children in their early lives. The most popular activities were **talking about things they had done** and **reading books** together. The least common activities included **talking about what they had read** and **playing word games**. Parents carried out literacy activities more frequently with girls than boys.



What Reading Resources Were at Home?

Most parents (**80%**) reported having **26+** children's books at home. However, parents of pupils in urban DEIS schools were less likely to report this (**57%**).



How Much Support for Homework Did Parents Provide?

Almost all pupils did homework **3+ times per week**. Of the pupils who had homework, most (**84%**) had parents who **reviewed** it for correctness 3+ times per week. Slightly fewer (**78%**) had parents who **'helped'** with homework 3+ times per week. However, it is not clear what kinds of 'help' were provided.

