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Reading for pleasure throughout childhood and adolescence

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What do children and young people think about reading? This is the question that the National Literacy Trust's Annual Literacy Survey has tracked in the United Kingdom since 2010. Data from over 250,000 9-18-year-olds over the past eight years has allowed us to build a year-on-year picture of their reading enjoyment, behaviour and attitudes. In addition, the large-scale data have allowed us to explore the relationships between these variables and reading skill. For the first time, we also ran the survey with children aged 5-8, providing useful insight into children's reading enjoyment and behaviour in the first years of schooling.

We will discuss findings from the survey and its junior version, using data we collected in January and February 2019. We will show how much children and young people enjoy reading, how often they do it and how they feel about it, and how these have changed in the past 9 years. In addition to highlighting the most recent reading trends in the UK, we will also discuss how reading is influenced by background variables, such as gender, age and economic disadvantage.