Transcript:

**Angela Crocombe:** “Once kids start school, they’re starting to learn to read and you really want to encourage them. Make them feel really passionate about books and find books that they really love and that suit them.  You never want to make it too hard or too onerous that they have to do it; they have school readers for that. Reading should be lots of fun.

I love the Sally Rippin series [Angela holds up books *Billy B Brown* and *Hey Jacks!*), the *Billy B Brown’s* and the *Hey Jack’s*. They’re really very simple, easy to read books and the characters are kids just like them, that go to school just like them and they can relate to them. They also really love a series and these ones are nice and thin [holds up same books], there’s only four chapters, they’re a good starter, they’re not too overwhelming for them.

Other popular ones that they really love are Geronimo Stilton and Thea Stilton [Angela holds up the book *The Hunt for the Golden Book* by Geronimo Stilton].  There’s colour on every page [Angels opens up this book and flicks through pages] and they’re great adventure stories, lots of mysteries and they have to solve puzzles and find clues and things. If they’re not ready to read it all themselves yet, what you can do is my daughter and I we take turns, we read a page each and that way you can encourage them but they can have a little break and again, it’s not work it’s fun.  It should be playful and enjoyable.

Likewise *Captain Underpants* [Angela holds up book *Captain Underpants*], some parents might think err he’s talking about his undies, but whatever gets them reading – that’s the important thing.  It’s a lot of fun, it’s clever and it’s teaching them about how to read comics [Angela opens book up to show comic layout on pages] which are slightly different to reading text. They’re just hilarious, they love them.

Other ones I really like are the *Tinklers Three* [Angela holds up *Tinklers Three* book]. These kids are circus kids and their parents are mysteriously away and they get up to all sorts of crazy little things all on their own. In this one they decide to get across the city not touching the ground so they crawl through their house and all over the rooves of the buildings and trees and everything to get to where they’re going. It’s a lot of fun.

A bit of a classic of course is *Old Tom* [Angela holds up *Old Tom* book], he’s perennially popular and *Mr Chicken* as well is really good for kids. Lots of pictures for kids to break it up and not too much text and not too many hard words.

And also don’t forget to keep reading to them while they are this age. It’s nice to take a break and for them to take a break from reading so you can read them classics and books that are a little bit above their reading level but they still love sharing that time with you and sharing stories together.

Find that special book that opens the door to a magic world. Thank you.”