

Encouraging Your Child to Read

When reading is an enjoyable part of everyday life, children will develop positive attitudes about reading. These tips for parents demonstrate how to make reading a part of life for preschool and school-aged children.

What are some ways to encourage young readers?

The most important thing to remember is that reading should be an enjoyable experience. The following activities can help you stimulate your child's interest in reading.

- **Talk with your infant or young child before he learns to read**

Talking with your child before he even speaks will help him learn important language skills. Most children need strong oral language skills if they are to develop as readers and writers. Using short, simple sentences, you can talk about your daily activities, what he is seeing and doing, his environment, sizes of objects, the shapes of signs, and so forth.

- **Read to and with your child at least 15 minutes each day**

Your child will gain awareness of the conventions of reading (left to right, top to bottom), and even the very young will gain vocabulary. Running your index finger under the print as you read will help your child notice that printed words have meaning. Gradually you can ask her to identify letters and sounds.

- **Sing songs and recite poems and rhymes that have repetitive sounds**

Repetition makes it easier for your child to pick up on the patterns in the sounds you make.

- **Model good reading habits**

Help your child understand that reading is important by letting him see you reading maps, books, recipes, and directions. Suggest reading as a free-time activity. Keep books that are of interest to your child in an easy place for him to reach.

- **Visit your local library**

While you're there you can sign your child up for preschool story time and let her choose some books to take home.

What are some ways to encourage school-age readers?

Once your child begins nursery school, preschool, or primary school, you should work with the teacher to improve reading skills.

- **Continue being a good role model - Let your child see you read.**

- **Encourage your child to read on her own at home - Reading at home can help your child do better in school.**

- **Keep a variety of reading materials in the house - Make sure to have reading materials for enjoyment as well as for reference.**

- **Encourage your child to practice reading aloud**

Listen to your child read for at least 15 minutes every day and praise him/her often as she does so. Offer to read every other page or even every other chapter to your child. Have conversations and discussions about the book with your child.

- **Write short notes for your child to read** - Write down his weekly household responsibilities for him to keep track of or put a note in his lunch bag.

- **Encourage activities that require reading**

Cooking (reading a recipe), making a kite (reading directions), or identifying a bird's nest or a shell at the beach (reading a reference book) are some examples.

- **Establish a reading time, even if it's only 15 minutes each day**

Make sure there is a good reading light in your child's room and stock the bookshelves with books and magazines that are easy to both read and reach.

- **Talk with your child**

Talking makes children think about their experiences more and helps them expand their vocabularies. Ask your child to give detailed descriptions of events and to tell complete stories.

- **Give your child writing materials**

Reading and writing go hand in hand. Children want to learn to write and to practice writing. If you make pencils, crayons, and paper available at all times, your child will be more inclined to initiate writing activities on his own.

- **Restrict television time** - The less time your child spends watching television, the more time he/she will have for reading-related activities.

- **Visit the library once a week**

Have your child apply for her own library card so she can check out books on her own for schoolwork and for pleasure reading. Ask your child to bring home a library book to read to a younger sibling and encourage her to check out books on tape that she can listen to on long car trips.

- **Work in partnership with your child's school**

Offer to volunteer in the classroom or school library as often as your schedule allows. Ask the school for parent participation materials.

Conclusion

To help your child succeed in school, you should do your part to ensure that he or she starts school with a strong foundation in language and literacy-related skills and a desire to learn to read.

In the early primary years - from Y1 to Y4 - your child will continue learning how to read, which is a complex process that is difficult for some and easy for others. Take care during these years not to overemphasize the process of learning to read while encouraging your child to practice reading often. Reading for pleasure and interest will help your child to develop reading skills and will give your child the opportunity to practice these skills in meaningful ways.

1. Develop children's oral language

Depending on the child's language skill level, give him a story to read or have a story read to them. When the story is finished, ask your child to pinpoint favourite parts of the story. This can enable children to have fun picking out words and develop an interest to move to the next page.

2. Read several stories every day

The more children are exposed to literature, the more reading will become part of their daily life. A child is introduced to new information, concepts, and phonemic awareness with every story.

3. Surround your children with reading material

Children with a large collection of reading resources in their homes score higher and perform better on standardized tests. Provoke a reading habit in your child by having a large array of interesting books and magazines at her reading level.

4. Encourage a wide variety of reading activities

Make reading an essential part of your children's lives. Let them read menus, movie name, roadside signs, game guides, weather reports, and other practical everyday information. Always try to make sure your children have something to read in their spare time.

5. Use technology to increase self-esteem

Technology is changing the way we all learn, and it can have a positive impact on kids and their reading. By adding technology like tablet e-readers to the classroom, students' self-esteem and confidence rises. Technology also gives students who have grown up in an age of smartphones and computers another outlet with which they are familiar to grow and learn. Building self-esteem through applied technology and increased reading skills can have a positive ripple-effect on every other area of a student's life.

6. Let them use e-readers

E-readers can be adapted to each person's specific needs. If you have a kid who needs larger font or less lines per page in order to improve their reading ability, e-readers are perfectly suited to this kind of tailoring. E-readers are adaptive for students with learning disabilities as well, and can help level the playing field for children who learn differently.

7. Let them choose what they read

Reading for pleasure is one of the best ways for a child to improve his performance at school, but teaching a child to love reading involves a lot more than simply handing him a book. Letting children

have choices in their reading material goes a long way in raising life-long readers. Kids who choose what they read, regardless of whether it's a novel, a comic book, or a magazine, are more engaged with what they are reading and more likely to retain the information.

8. Help them choose age-appropriate books

Help your kids choose age-appropriate books on topics that interest them to spark a passion for reading. Take them to the library or even show them e-readers that provide entire libraries of options at the touch of the screen. Access to a wide-variety of options helps make it easier for parents to help their children find the stories that give them that toehold into the world of reading.

9. Make use of gadgets and creative apps

Your smartphone or tablets can be used to install useful reading apps where kids can have safe spaces for reading without parents worrying about what they might come across online. Parents are able to choose what their children can access, as well as how long they can do different activities with timer features.

10. Show interest in your child's reading

Your response or feedback has a strong effect on how hard they will try to become good readers. Always remember to give them genuine praise for their efforts.

Reading for pleasure seems to give kids an advantage in school because they are used to be introduced to new ideas and can process them more quickly and effectively than their non-reading peers. E-readers have opened the doors to getting the next generation back into reading. Easy access to an array of topics and stories is sure to spark an interest in even a reluctant reader, and increasing technology provides better tailored learning opportunities while increasing self-esteem and confidence in the classroom.

How do I get my child to love reading?

1. Read to your child from the earliest age. ...
2. Begin visiting the library regularly. ...
3. Read to your child as often as possible. ...
4. Don't push your child to learn to read. ...
5. Don't stop reading to him once he learns to read. ...
6. Ritualize daily reading time. ...
7. Take an interest in what your child is reading by listening to him/her and talking about the text.
8. Help her tackle the next level.

<http://www.lifehack.org/articles/lifestyle/10-ways-for-parents-encourage-their-child-read.html>

Reading is essential not only in education, but in the modern business world where so much communication takes place digitally, over email and text-based messaging systems. Because of this, the ability to read for comprehension and to communicate effectively is vital. Beyond that, reading for pleasure provides a wealth of benefits for kids as they go through school and into adulthood. A study of more than 17,000 people, recording their reading habits and academic success as children, found that those students who read for pleasure not only did better with their vocabulary and spelling, but also in maths. The connection was four times as strong as that of students whose parents had graduate level degrees.

Here are some tips for parents to encourage their kids to read and turn a young reader's reluctance into enthusiasm.