

Parent Activities

1. Set-up a **family library** or a children's library. Let your children choose the children's books to include.
2. Give children's books as **gifts**. **Pop-up books, flap books, and read-alongs** (books with audio cassettes) provide good reading fun. Books that come with **toys, stuffed animals, dolls, or kits** extend the reading time into play time!
3. Establish a **family silent reading time**. Make this an important family routine; this lets children see their parents reading, helps them understand that their parents value reading, and provides a quiet time to enjoy books and family.
4. Visit the **library** and check-out books on a regular basis. Go to bookstore and library story times.
 5. **Read** to children (before they can read for themselves and after they've learned to read). Let them delight in the story and language while you read to them. Help children **discover different authors, topics, genre, and forms** of writing that they might enjoy. Read the first book of a series; if the child enjoys it, s/he might want to read other books in the series. Read **fun poetry** with your children; read it together and giggle together!
 6. Help your child find **books related to his/her interests and hobbies**. These books will be more motivating and interesting for them (because they are already interested).
7. Subscribe to a **children's magazine** (in your child's name) related to his/her **interests**. Children love to receive mail. This is mail they'll look forward to every month!
8. Help your child locate books with **characters that are his/her age or in his/her grade in school**. Reading is much more enjoyable when children can relate to story characters.
9. Allow children to choose their own books. Allow them to read **easy books** (below their reading level). Some children will enjoy **read-along audio cassettes**. Initially, it is important for reluctant readers to spend time simply enjoying books.
10. Have your child **keep a record** of his/her reading. For every book that s/he reads, they can write the title on a balloon shape, a kite shape, or some other shape (related to the child's interests) that is posted on his/her bedroom door. Watching the number of balloons or kites grow can be very motivating for a child.