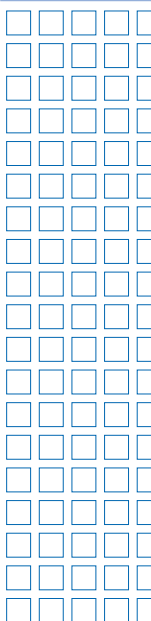


How To Build Successful Readers Early: Strategies for Parents



The love of reading begins at home. As parents, you play a vital role in your child's reading development. Here, you'll find ideas and activities you can use to nurture your child's love of reading, preparing him for success in school and beyond!

1

Read to and with your child every day.

By far, this is the most important thing you can do to promote a love of reading. Reading aloud to a young child, even before a baby can hold a book, stimulates the child's mind and helps to build an appreciation for books. Reading to your child before she starts school will improve her vocabulary and prepare her for learning to read on her own.

Try to read for 30 minutes each day. If that is not possible, remember that five minutes a day is better than none.

When your child has gained enough skill, invite her to read with you. Ask her to find letters and words on the page. Play a game by alternating sentences—you read one sentence and your child reads the next. For emerging readers, you may want to read several words while your child follows along, supplying the next word.

When you are unable to read to your child, ask grandparents, neighbors, babysitters, siblings, and other caregivers to step in and serve as the designated reader for the day.

Besides increasing your child's skills and appreciation for books, these reading sessions will create memories that will last a lifetime.

Make reading meaningful.

Show your emerging reader how reading and writing help you get things done every day—cooking, shopping, driving, and so on. Teach your child simple words that appear often in daily life, such as “stop,” “exit,” “walk,” and “bus.” Once your child sees the connection between reading and daily tasks, he'll come to understand the importance of learning to read.

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Make time to read as a family.

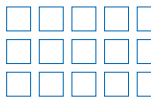
Set aside time at home to read and share stories. Family reading provides valuable practice and reinforces the importance of reading well.

Show your child how much you love to read.

Model your own interest in reading by reading in front of your child often. Suggest reading as a free-time activity, and make sure your child has time in his daily schedule to read. Let him see you read for pleasure, and encourage him to do the same.

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Set up a reading area in your home.

Put books your child enjoys in a single location where she can easily reach them—such as a bookshelf in her bedroom. Choose a quiet, well-lighted place, and equip it with a comfortable chair and anything else she may need. As your child’s reading skills improve, add more challenging books to her collection.

Revisit the books you loved as a child.

Introduce your child to some of your favorite childhood books. Borrow them from the library and read them together. Ask your child to pick out her favorite book so you can read it. Then discuss it together.

9

Let your child choose the books he wants.

By allowing your child to select his own books, you are empowering him to take charge of his own learning. Your child will feel active and involved, increasing his excitement and adding to the fun of reading.

6

Practice writing with letters to family members.

Encourage your child to write notes to grandparents and other relatives. Ask the family members to write back. Doing so will not only improve your children’s reading and writing skills, but bring your family closer together as well.

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7

Pair books with activities your child enjoys.

Encourage your child to read books about activities she enjoys. You may also combine her favorite activities with books on the subject. For example, if you’re planning to spend a day at the beach, suggest your child read a story about the ocean. Discuss the book with her on your way to the activity. On the way home, discuss how the beach met—or didn’t meet—her expectations from the book.

11

End every day with a bedtime story.

Establish a bedtime ritual that includes reading aloud to your child. As bedtime approaches, model your excitement for reading by talking with your child about how you can’t wait to find out what happens in the next chapter, and ask your child what he thinks will happen next. In addition to helping your child gain an appreciation for good stories, this routine will give you and your child more quality time together.

Visit the library often.

Take your child on trips to the library and get him excited about borrowing books. Make getting your child’s first library card a special event.

8

Celebrate your child’s success.

Celebrate with your child when she finishes new or challenging books. Take her out to dinner or rent a movie adaptation of the book she just read if one is available. Compare the story told in the movie to the original story in the book.

12

Share Your Ideas with Us!

In what ways do you encourage and motivate your child’s reading growth? Please share your successful ideas and activities with us! We’ll update and republish this flyer periodically, and include the best suggestions in future editions.

