

Reading Skills

How to Help Your Child Practice Reading

Doing well in school depends on being able to read, write, talk, and listen. Learning to read takes a lot of time and practice for young children. Children have to learn that the lines and circles in letters go together to make words, and that the words have meaning. They have to learn that books have stories or give information.

There are many ways to help your child enjoy books and practice reading. Here are some things you can do.

Where to Find Good Books

A great way to help your child practice reading and become a better reader is to have books at home for him to read. There are several ways to get more books for your children.

- The library is a great source for books. Take your child to the public library or have him check out some books from the library at school. Encourage him to read those with you at home.
- The library also has surplus book sales once in a while where you can often find very inexpensive children's books. Some libraries have a Story Time especially for children.
- Many thrift stores and used book stores have used books for children that do not cost a lot of money.
- Many yard and garage sales have children's books for sale.
- Friends or neighbors may have children's books that they don't use any more. Maybe they will lend or give them to you.
- Friends who also have young children might trade books with you.

The more books children have to read at home, the more fun they will have in practicing reading.



More Ideas for Reading

Words are all around us—food labels, signs, menus, text messages. A great way to help children practice reading is to read the words around them. Here are some fun ways to help your child practice reading every day.

- Have him read his school books or assignments to you.
- When you are out for a drive or walk, have him read street signs to you.
- At the grocery store have him read the labels on food packages. Have him read the labels on the peanut butter, jam, milk, orange juice and find the one you want to buy.
- Have a regular time when he reads to a younger brother or sister, a neighbor, a grandparent, a pet, or even a stuffed animal.
- Have him read the labels on cereal boxes, soup cans, and other food packages in your kitchen.
- Have him read the recipe to you when you cook or the directions for using tools.
- Have him read the outside of envelopes that come in the mail.
- Ask a grandparent or other relative to send your child a letter. Have him read it to you.
- Look for fun reading games on the computer or smart phone. Some great reading games for young children can be found at <http://PBSkids.org>, <http://www.getreadytoread.org>, <http://www.nickjr.com> and <http://disney.go.com/disneyjunior>.
- Send your child a note or email on a smart phone. Have him read it to you.
 - Have him read the menu at the restaurant.
 - Watch children's shows on public television with your child, such as *Sesame Street*, *Between the Lions*, *Martha Speaks*, *WordGirl*, *Arthur*, and *WordWorld*, and have him read along.



Watch Families Doing Activities

To watch families doing these activities, please go to: www.schoolsuccesslibrary.com and click on the "Parents" link at the top of the page. Next, click on "Literacy Resources". Then, click on the button that matches your child's age group. Scroll down the page and click on the video that goes with this tip sheet. Other tip sheets and videos are there as well.

More Ideas

If you and your child enjoy these activities, tell your child's teacher. The teacher may have more ideas to share for learning fun at home. If your child is having a hard time with these activities, you also can talk to your child's teacher. There may be other activities to help.



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