



10 Tips for Encouraging Your Child to Read

Make sure there is something to read at home. Having books, newspapers, magazines, catalogues etc. on hand around your home may result in random acts of recreational reading. Canning the Sunday comics over a bowl of cereal is a sign your child is reading for pleasure.

Find out what other children are reading. Reading books popular with other children your child's age can give you a sense of what your child might enjoy. It may also give you insight into some of the pressures and concerns that your child may be thinking about. Ask a bookseller, librarian, or another child for suggestions.

Try something new! Encourage a child who says reading is boring to sample something they haven't tried before.

Share your reading. Comment on something you've read in the newspaper and point out items that might interest your child. Or leave the paper open at the breakfast table and ask for your child's opinion on a topic or an issue people are talking about.

Lighten up. While you may prefer to see your child reading books deserving of the term "literature" let him/her know that escapist reading has its place too. And let them know that it's okay to skip pages or not finish a book that they aren't enjoying (as long as it's not for school).

Lead by example. Continue to practice what you preach. Let your child see you with your feet up enjoying a good book. Male role models are particularly important for boys who think reading is nerdy or only something girls do.

Give your child a gift certificate to a bookstore. A gift certificate gives your child the opportunity and the means to choose for themselves making it much more likely they will actually read.

Take a cue from your child's interests. Look for books and magazines about things or issues your child is interested in: cars, boats, movies, music, sports they watch or play, fashion, cooking, horses, animal rights, photography, computer and gaming technology, global warming, etc.

Don't give up! Children for a variety of reasons, sometimes lose interest in reading for a while. Patience and a sense of humor can help see them through.