

Reading for Success

Enjoy family reading time

As Mark Twain once noted, a person who *does not* read books has no advantage over a person who *cannot* read them. One of the most important things you can do at home is to ensure that reading plays a central role in your family life. So set some family reading goals. Here are some ideas to get you started.

Motivate your child to read

- **Set bedtime a little later.** Allow the light to stay on as long as your child is reading. Odds are your child will go to sleep pretty quickly anyway.
- **Make a comfortable place** for your child to read. Some kids like beanbag chairs. Others like hammocks. Help create a special reading nook just for your child.



Make reading a fun family affair

- **Plan regular reading times.** Turn off the TV and read a book to your child. Stop at an exciting part. Your child will be excited to learn more.
- **Take the whole family** to a bookstore to browse on a Friday night.
- **Visit the library** on Saturday just before going out for ice cream. Make sure everyone has a library card!
- **Hold a monthly family reading challenge.** Keep a record of the books each family member reads.
- **Read a book together.** Then go see the movie.
- **Schedule D-E-A-R time** on your family calendar. Have everyone “Drop Everything And Read.”

Stock the shelves

- **Build a family library.** Keep favorite books on hand. Read them again and again.
- **Look for a used book store.** Your library may also have a used book sale.
- **Replace the TV** in the kitchen with a bookshelf. Make it easy to reach and keep it stocked new books, magazines, newspapers—and with old favorites!
- **Keep books and kids’ magazines** in most rooms.
- **Keep your car stocked, too.** Take books along wherever you go. Listen to audio books as your child reads along.

Keep it interactive

- **Plan a special night** when you all take turns reading a favorite book aloud.
- **Serve a favorite snack** and discuss what you’ve read. Talk about plots and characters. Get everyone’s reactions.
- **Read a short skit or play.** Have everyone take the part of a character and read in a different voice.
- **Pretend you’re detectives.** Read a mystery book. Stop before the end. Take turns trying to solve the crime.



