

Reading for Success

Reading is a family affair

One of the most important things parents can do at home is to ensure that reading plays a central role in family life. Research shows that children who read at home with parents will do better in school. And when families read together, they are making family memories as well as building children's reading skills.

Set a reading example

Setting a good example is the best way to teach your child anything. When you make it clear that reading is part of your everyday life, you'll find that reading soon becomes part of your child's life, too.

- **Let your child see you reading** every day. You can read books, magazines and newspapers.
- **Make it a point to talk** with your child about what you are reading. Share a funny story you've just read. Talk about something you've read that surprised you.



Build a family library

- **Find a quiet corner** with space for a small shelf (or box) and a comfy chair.
- **Stock it full of books.** Find affordable books at garage sales, library sales and school book fairs.
- **Display books** where your child can reach them. Fancy shelves are fine, but magazine racks and milk crates work, too.
- **Include a variety** of reading materials for everyone—from baby to Grandpa. This is a family library, after all, so the whole family should use it!

Create reading traditions

You can reinforce the importance of family *and* reading by making time to read together on:

- **Religious and national holidays.** Find books about the holidays your family celebrates. On those days, sit down as a family and read about them. Reading about holidays can make them more meaningful for your child.
- **Your child's birthday.** Read a favorite story together on your child's birthday. It's a fun way for the whole family to celebrate year after year.

Keep a reading journal

A reading journal is a great way to keep track of what your child is reading. It also lets you know how *much* your child is reading.

Use a notebook. Each day, write down the titles and authors of the books you and your child have enjoyed that day. Have your child tell you something about each book—what your child liked most, the funniest part, etc. Record what your child has said.

Encourage your child to draw a picture. Eventually, your child will be able to write her own “book reviews”—and you can easily show your child how her reading has progressed!

