

Reading for Success

Make reading a daily pleasure

To make reading a daily pleasure, encourage your child to read about interesting topics. And remember that reading for pleasure doesn't have to mirror what your child is reading at (or for) school. Make sure you have different types of reading material around the house—books, magazines, newspapers, brochures—and even comics. To encourage your child's leisure reading:

Make reading a tempting option

To help your child develop a reading habit:

- » **Be a reading role model.** Show that you read for fun. Keep books and magazines around that you'll want to read—and do the same for your child.
- » **Make a list with your child** of interesting and irresistible topics (sports, dinosaurs, the night sky, etc.) and find books or articles about them.
- » **Leave reading material** in relaxing spots, such as on a couch or bed, for you and your child to enjoy.
- » **Subscribe to a children's magazine.** You can find magazines on any interest. Your child will love getting it in the mail, too.
- » **Set up a "reading tent"** in the backyard. Or throw a blanket over a couple of kitchen chairs. Give your child a "reading flashlight."
- » **Visit a special reading spot** on the weekends, such as a park.
- » **Create a reading nook** in your child's room—a comfortable chair or some pillows in a corner. Add a shelf or box for books.
- » **Allow some quiet time** for reading before bedtime each night.



Make reading a social event

Many children get so wrapped up in activities that they have little time for reading. To blend friends and books, encourage your child to have a:

- » **Book swap.** Have your child invite friends over to exchange and talk about their favorite books.
- » **Book party.** Organize it around a favorite series. For example, have a Nancy Drew party. Play Clue® or another mystery game.
- » **Write-a-story party.** Have everyone sit in a circle. Give each child a sheet of paper. Begin by having children write a sentence on their paper, then pass the paper to the next child to write the second sentence.

Have them continue passing the stories until all group members have written a sentence for each story. They will have fun reading each new story aloud!

- » **Joke party.** Invite children to bring books with jokes or riddles. Let them take turns reading aloud to the group.
- » **Play-reading party.** Give everyone a copy of a short, easy-to-read play script. Encourage them to be dramatic and ham it up.

