

Tips for Reading with Your Child at Home Grades K-8



Make books special

- Have a favorite place for books in your home (or many places), take your kids to the library and buy them books as gifts.

Make reading a priority

- It helps to set aside specific times for reading, such as 10 minutes before bed or 30 minutes every Sunday morning. This can be special “together time” for you and your child.

Be patient and supportive

- Give your child some time when he/she is trying to figure out unknown words. However, help with difficult words before he/she becomes frustrated.

Mix it up

- Reading time can be a mix of your child reading to you, the two of you reading together, and you reading aloud to your child.

Keep reading aloud to your child

- Even as your child gets older and begins to read more independently, continue reading aloud to him/her. Having you read aloud allows your child to enjoy books that are beyond his/her independent reading level. It builds vocabulary and models smooth, fluent reading.

Use audiobooks

- Have your child listen to audiobooks at every age to encourage listening comprehension and exposure to books beyond your child's independent reading level.

Bring books everywhere

- Don't leave home without a book or magazine any time your child has to wait, such as before doctor's appointments. As your child gets older, make him/her responsible for bringing reading material along.

Read it again

- Encourage your child to re-read favorite books and poems. Re-reading builds fluency and comprehension.

Talk it out

- Talk with your child every day about things going on at school, around the house, around the community and around the world. These conversations build your child's background knowledge and promote vocabulary development.

Be a model

- Let your child see you reading frequently and share your excitement when you enjoy a great book of your own.