



The ABCs of Literacy for Parents

Actions speak louder than words. Let your children see you enjoying reading by turning off the TV to read a newspaper or a book instead. They will learn that you value reading and see it as an important and enjoyable activity.

Be aware of the amount and kind of screen time your children have. Establish time limits, watch television with your children and talk together about what you've seen.

Computer time can be reading time. Let your children help you search online to look for information. Teach them how to send messages and letters to friends through email. Look for computer programs that will build your children's reading skills and for websites that include books for children to read.

Don't stop reading aloud just because your child is older and can read on their own. Children enjoy hearing stories and talking about them long after they can read for themselves. Read aloud to your children every day.

Encourage bedtime reading. Help your older child develop a bedtime reading habit by encouraging them to keep their own personal library and supplying a bedside reading lamp. Children who have trouble heading to bed will enjoy the chance to stay awake and read a little bit longer!

Find a magazine that your child enjoys and buy a subscription. Children love to receive their own mail.

Get pictures of your children reading and put them up. Help them really see themselves as readers!

Have your child's eyesight and hearing tested regularly. If you suspect your child may be having difficulty, call your pediatrician and seek assistance.

Include the idea of reading as an activity with a purpose. For example, read to find information when

planning a family holiday or as preparation before buying a new pet.

Join the public library with your children and visit it often. Allow lots of time for browsing during each visit. Remember that, besides having a wealth of books, the public library also has CDs, DVDs and computers with free access to the Internet for cardholders. Encourage your children to think of the library as a resource for fun and learning throughout life.

Keep the fun in reading. The most important thing you can do to help your children become successful readers is to communicate that reading is both valuable and enjoyable.

Listen to the stories your children tell. Encourage them to write down their ideas and experiences. Make up stories together.

Make reading a habit. Put aside a special time to read together every day. Let your children know that reading together is important and special to you.

Nurture your children's enthusiasm for reading by playing family games. Not only do these games help build reading skills, but they also provide an opportunity for families to have fun together!

Organize a family library in your home. Keep a variety of books, magazines or newspapers that interest your children in places where they can easily find them. It doesn't matter if books are owned or borrowed, old or new. Check out garage sales or community book sales and visit your public library.

Plan opportunities for your children to build on what they've been reading about. If they have been reading about horses, follow up with a visit to a stable.

Questions, such as "I wonder what will happen next?" encourage your child to talk and think about what is being read. Talk with your child about the beginning,

middle and end of stories to organize thinking and discussion.

Reading just 15 minutes a day see an average of more than a million words a year. Reading with your children every day is the most important thing you can do to help them succeed. Think of reading as an intellectual vitamin.

***“The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”***

– Dr. Seuss

Spend time talking with your children. Discuss the daily news with them. Listen to their thoughts and pay attention to their ideas.

Take your children places, so they can experience and discover new things. Visit museums and historical sites. Encourage them to talk about what they see. Make connections to what they’ve been reading.

Use audio books on those days when you’re too tired to read aloud. Listening and following the text together is still reading and a fun change for both parents and children.

Visit your child’s classroom to learn how they’re doing in school and how you can help them become better students. Find out if there is a home reading program you can support.

Write notes, riddles or reminders for your children to read. Put these in their lunches or leave them on their pillows. They will look forward to these fun surprises. Encourage your children to write back by having paper, pencils, pens or crayons readily available in your home.

Xylophone! X-rays! Use reading to introduce your children to new and exciting topics. Enjoy learning together!

You can help your child succeed. Children who read become adults who read.

Z marks the end of the alphabet, but only the beginning of a wonderful journey through literacy with your children!

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