

7 Tips to Support Reading

(from www.scholastic.com)

Even if your child is motivated to read, supporting her with a variety of ways and options will keep her momentum going. Here are 7 tips to open up the wonderful world of reading for your child.

- **Reading Tip for Parents: What’s “Just Right”?** Children feel confident and competent when they read books that are “just right.” But how do you find a “just right” book? Have your child read the back and front cover, and first page of the book. If there are more than five words that he cannot pronounce or understand in context, the book may be too challenging. Be supportive about finding a more perfect fit. Choosing the right book will help your little reader feel successful.
- **Reading Tip for Parents: Map it Out** It’s important to provide your child with a variety of fiction and non-fiction reading. A fun way to do this is to get a map and show them the way from your house to the grocery store or another familiar destination. Have your child write out the directions, street by street, and then read them to you as you walk or drive to the store – like a living GPS!
- **Reading Tip for Parents: Card Tricks** Do you think effective reading only takes place at libraries and book stores? Think again! There are reading opportunities everywhere. Go to a greeting card store with your child and read the greeting cards together. Later, vote for the ones whose words convey the best birthday wish or get-well sentiment.
- **Reading Tip for Parents: Picture This!** During your next outing or gathering, take action-packed photos, then have your child create captions to go with each picture. Assemble the pictures and captions in a picture book or album, and add speech and thought bubbles to create a personalized – and probably hysterical -- graphic novel.
- **Reading Tip for Parents: Last Comic Standing** Take time to read comic strips together. Share favorites from your own childhood and have your child put his favorites on the fridge. Read them aloud, and often -- repetition is a great way to build reading skills. Soon, he’ll love looking forward to the “Sunday funnies” each week.
- **Reading Tip for Parents: Become a Fan** Your child will soon develop a love for particular authors and illustrators. Nurture her fan-ship by helping her write a letter to her favorite author. Many authors have their own websites with contact information, but here’s a great place to start your search (<http://www.scholastic.com/kids/stacks/authors/all.htm>). You can also contact the book’s publisher, the mailing address for which can often be found on the back of the title page or on the publisher’s Web site.
- **Reading Tip for Parents: Labels of Love** Word recognition and vocabulary are important parts of reading. On a rainy day, get some paper and tape and start labeling everything in your home -- from furniture to small knick-knacks. Reading these labels repeatedly will build your child’s mental word bank. If your family is bilingual, create labels in both languages.

Reading Tips for Parents of First Graders

(from www.readingrockets.org)

- **Don't leave home without it**
Bring along a book or magazine any time your child has to wait, such as at a doctor's office. Always try to fit in reading!
- **Once is *not* enough**
Encourage your child to re-read favorite books and poems. Re-reading helps kids read more quickly and accurately.
- **Dig deeper into the story**
Ask your child questions about the story you've just read. Say something like, "Why do you think Clifford did that?"
- **Take control of the television**
It's difficult for reading to compete with TV and video games. Encourage reading as a free-time activity.
- **Be patient**
When your child is trying to sound out an unfamiliar word, give him or her time to do so. Remind to child to look closely at the first letter or letters of the word.
- **Pick books that are at the right level**
Help your child pick books that are not too difficult. The aim is to give your child lots of successful reading experiences.
- **Play word games**
Have your child sound out the word as you change it from mat to fat to sat; from sat to sag to sap; and from sap to sip.
- **I read to you, you read to me**
Take turns reading aloud at bedtime. Kids enjoy this special time with their parents.
- **Gently correct your young reader**
When your child makes a mistake, gently point out the letters he or she overlooked or read incorrectly. Many beginning readers will guess wildly at a word based on its first letter.
- **Talk, talk, talk!**
Talk with your child every day about school and things going on around the house. Sprinkle some interesting words into the conversation, and build on words you've talked about in the past.
- **Write, write, write!**
Ask your child to help you write out the grocery list, a thank you note to Grandma, or to keep a journal of special things that happen at home. When writing, encourage your child to use the letter and sound patterns he is learning at school.