

Encouraging Reading at Home

Share Books to Promote a Love of Reading

- A beginning reader can understand much more than she is able to read on her own.
- Even when your child begins to read, it is important that you continue to read to her.
- Let your child choose the story.
- Read the same story many times.
- Aim for at least 20 minutes a day.
- Many parents build story time into a bedtime routine. Great idea!



Make Reading a Habit



- Encourage your child to read on his own.
- A beginning reader might look at picture books or 'read' a book that he has memorized.
- As your child develops stronger reading skills, encourage him to read at, or just below, his reading level. This will support his growth as a reader as well as his confidence.
- Magazines and newspapers count too!
- Ask your child's teacher for some ideas of materials that are 'just right' for your child.

Visit the Library

- Your child will be proud to have her own library card.
- Visit the library often and help your child choose books of interest to her.
- Don't forget the non-fiction section! Some reluctant readers get 'hooked on reading' when we introduce them to books on topics of interest (e.g., reptiles, astronomy, animal babies).
- Ask the librarian for help selecting books that are at the right level and will appeal to your child.



Show Your Child that Reading is Important to You

Here are some ways to show children that reading is important (and fun!):



- Make sure your child sees YOU reading – a book, a magazine, or a newspaper.
 - Talk about what you are reading (e.g., “I learned the most interesting fact from the newspaper today...” or “I nearly missed my stop because my book was so exciting!”).
 - Use your library card, just as you encourage your child to use his.
-
- Give books as gifts. Make sure there is a special place where your child can keep his own personal library.
 - Reward with reading. Reward your child for helping at home or getting ready for bed quickly. Offer an extra story (e.g., “You did such a great job, we have time for an extra story!”).

There are Many Ways to Promote Reading

Some parents worry that because they are not strong readers in English, they will not be able to help their children develop reading skills. Try these tips:



- Read in your home language. Children can develop reading skills in any language.
 - Borrow dual language books from the library.
 - Use the pictures to create a story.
 - Have the computer read to your child. Stories are free at: http://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca/kids/reader_zone.html. Click on ‘Tumblebooks’ and choose a story at your child’s level.
-
- When possible, sit with your child while he listens to stories on the computer.
 - Pause the story to make predictions or talk about your favourite part. Reading is always more fun with a partner!

