



Rearing Reading Skills

The Facts

From bedtime stories to cereal boxes, kids love to read. This trait can expand and establish into a habitual activity, especially, if parents set the tone for their child or children. Reading is an activity that should be brought into a child's life from the very beginning and continue on throughout their development.

Preparing a Child's Reading Skills

Here are a few helpful hints that are essential in preparing for a child's reading development, in encouraging its establishment and in maintaining a child's habitual drive to read.

- 1. Take inventory of reading tools**
 - From daily newspapers to books, a parent can gather all sorts of reading materials by just looking around their home.
 - Create a reading location that is comfortable, that is away from distractions and that provides good lighting.
 - Establish a reading atmosphere where library trips exist, encouragement of reading persists and television is limited.
- 2. Establish an interest among your child**
 - Age is not a factor with this step. Whether your child is a baby or a teenager, always encourage your child to read by helping them gain interest. In example: sing, read and talk to newborns or bring your teen to a bookstore one afternoon.
- 3. Act as a role model**
 - Children not only take on physical traits of a parent, they also pick up on habitual traits. By letting your child see you read daily, giving them books or by reading with them, you are setting a role for your child, in which will produce and encourage a lifetime habit of reading.
- 4. Talk with your child**
 - Daily conversations about events, life, stories, etc. go beyond just talking. Conversing helps



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increase one's vocabulary, reading interests and language abilities.

5. Encourage a child to write

- Writing is a key factor in reading, since it is the root of how one gets information to read. Encouraging your child to write will help them exceed in reading and establish great writing skills. Always have writing tools accessible for your child whether they want to draw, write in a diary/journal or send letters.

6. Connect issues to the real world

- Reading goes beyond just books. From recipes to business letters/memos, reading is an essential activity necessary in our every day lives. Explain and illustrate this fact by showing your child different documents associated with these examples.

7. Build reading skills through practice

- As with learning to ride a bike, reading takes just as much, if not more, practice. It has been proven that children become good readers if they read at least 30 minutes a day. Whether your child wants to read books, magazines, etc., encourage them to do so before bed, in the car or at recess. A good lesson in practice has to do with previewing the material before hand, trying to summarize the material as you and your child reads it and reviewing the lessons of the reading afterwards.

8. Make it fun to read

- You can prove that reading is fun by trying out a few of these suggestions:

1. Offer a diverse array of reading materials
2. Take your child's interest into mind when making a selection
3. Use animated voices when reading or act the story out
4. Ask for your child's help in buying books
5. Ask your child to read aloud
6. Give them gift certificates related to reading as a way to praise their reading efforts and skills.

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Produced by

PARTNERS IN PARENTING (PIP) (800) 457-2736

A joint project of CSU Cooperative Extension and

Red Rocks Community College with funding from the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Division and CSAP.

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