

Building



Readers®

Pollard School Reading Room
Ms. Tozier and Mrs. Rockwell

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Check out library books with confidence



A winter storm is on the way, and you head to the library to stock up on books. "Which ones will keep my child happy?" you wonder. Look for:

- **Appealing features**, such as large print, interesting pictures and relatable characters.
- **Information** about the book's reading level. (Free-time reading should be fun, not frustrating!)
- **Topics that match** your child's interests. Ask the librarian to suggest some titles.
- **Different formats**, such as comic books and magazines, for kids who avoid reading.

Source: Toby Leah Bochan, "Choose the Best Books for Your Independent Reader," MSN.com, <http://lifestyle.msn.com/FamilyandParenting/RaisingKids/Article.aspx?cp-documentid=165037>.



Prepare for test success

When kids take tests, they often study close to the test date. But your child can prepare now just by reading! Reading skills are critical to how kids do on tests. And practice makes a big difference. If your child falls behind in reading, make reading skills a higher priority. Then testing may get easier, too.

Source: "A Parent's Guide to Testing at Your Child's School," Pennsylvania State Education Association, www.psea.org/article.cfm?SID=545.

Using resources

In an Ohio study, more than 99% of kids said the school library helps them learn better. Keep in mind that many school libraries welcome not only kids, but parents, too. Stop by for a visit!

Source: Debra Lau Whelan, "13,000 Kids Can't Be Wrong," *School Library Journal*, February 1, 2004 (Reed Business Information, 646/746-6689, www.schoollibraryjournal.com).

Use acting to bring out the best in words

Did you know that acting can help your child read? That's because it requires expression. Performing a few lines from a favorite book is a good reminder that words aren't just letters to be read. They have strong meaning when put together!

Source: Lisa Blau, "5 Surefire Strategies for Developing Reading Fluency," Scholastic, <http://content.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=4367>.

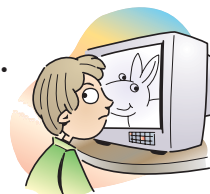
Tip It's good to keep a kids' book or audio book handy in the car. You never know when a reading opportunity will arise, such as a traffic jam or drive-through line.



Q: My child loves TV and refuses to read. I limit his TV time, but how can I get him to pick up a book?

A: Suggest that he read a book about his favorite TV character (as long as you approve of the show). Also see if the program has a website. There's probably a lot to read online. Chances are, your child won't even notice he's reading!

Source: Dawn Addison and Patrika Daws, "Entice the Reluctant Reader," Peel District [Canada] School Board, www.peel.edu.on.ca/parents/tips/lit-entice.htm.



Do you have a question about reading? Email readingadvisor@parent-institute.com.

Help your child know when to use uppercase letters

Your child has learned about capital letters. Beyond using them to begin sentences, though, they can get confusing! For example, suggest your child use them when writing:



- **The word "I."**
- **Important words in titles** (*The Mouse and the Motorcycle*).
- **Names of people**, organizations and official places (Bryan, Brown Elementary School, Spain).
- **Days of the week**, months and holidays (Monday, April, Christmas).
- **Titles that are names** (Aunt Rosie, Grandpa).

Can your child think of other times capital letters are used? Talk about why we capitalize. What if we only used lowercase letters? What if we only wrote in capitals?

Source: "Capitalization," Capital Community College Foundation, <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/capitals.htm>.

Persevere through reading problems together

It can be frustrating when a child doesn't like to read. You may feel as if you've tried everything—reading aloud, offering different kinds of books, ordering magazines. But don't give up. It can help to:

- **Watch movie versions** of books to build enthusiasm.
- **Find books** with large print.
- **Drop everything else** if your child suggests reading.

- **Try various sections** of the newspaper, such as sports, arts and science.
- **Play audio books** in the car and at bedtime.
- **Talk with teachers.** Every child is unique. You may find a surprising solution just around the corner!



Source: Melinda Sacks, "When You Love To Read ... But Your Child Doesn't," SchwabLearning.org, www.schwablearning.org/articles.asp?r=760.

For Lower Elementary readers:



Now You See Me ...

Now You Don't, by Dan Greenburg (Penguin). Oops! Zack drinks invisible

ink by mistake. The results keep readers chuckling and flipping pages at the same time.

Ruby the Red Fairy, by Daisy Meadows (Scholastic). Do you have a child who loves fairies but not reading? This first-in-a-series book may send her flying to the library.

For Upper Elementary readers:

Crispin: The Cross of Lead, by Avi (Hyperion). Mature readers will enjoy the suspense—and even the history—in this tale set in 14th-century England.

A Single Shard, by Linda Sue Park (Yearling). Long ago in Korea, an orphan develops his gift for artistry. This title won the Newbery Medal.

Reading term of the month

Base word (or Root word)

A word from which many other words can be formed is called a **base word**.

Example: Read
Reader, reading, reread, ...

What do an athlete and a reader have in common?

A professional athlete is like a good reader. How? Like all athletes, readers:



- **Begin learning** when they're young.
- **Learn from their mistakes.**
- **Benefit** from a positive attitude.
- **See interesting people** and things.
- **Use thinking skills.**
- **Must practice** so they don't lose valuable skills.

And remember this: An athlete competes for only a limited number of years. Reading is a lifelong adventure. Encourage your child to practice hard! The rewards will be great!

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“Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.”

—Joseph Addison

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