

Books and Brownies:

Helping Your Child Become a Better Reader

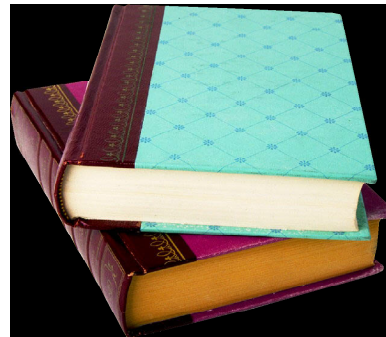


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How to Nurture a Growing Reader

Here are a dozen tips for
nurturing your growing readers.

1. Read with your children at least once every day.
2. Make sure they have plenty to read. Take them to the library regularly, and keep books and other reading materials in their reach.
3. Notice what interests each child, then help find books about those things.
4. Respect your children's choices. There's nothing wrong with series fiction if that's what keeps a young reader turning the pages.
5. Praise your children's efforts and newly acquired skills.
6. Help your children build a personal library. Children's books, new or used, make great gifts and appropriate rewards for reading. Designate a bookcase, shelf or box where your children can keep their books.



7. Check up on your children's progress. Listen to them read aloud, read what they write and ask teachers how they're doing in school.
8. Go places and do things with your children to build their background knowledge and vocabulary, and to give them a a basis for understanding what they read.
9. Tell stories. It's a fun way to teach values, pass on family history, and build your children's listening and thinking skills.
10. Be a reading role model. Let your children see you read, and share some interesting things with them that you have read about in books, newspapers, or magazines.
11. Continue reading aloud to older children even after they have learned to read by themselves.
12. Encourage writing along with reading. Ask children to sign their artwork, add to your shopping list, take messages and make their own books and cards as gifts.

Ways to Help Develop Your Child's Comprehension

Reading is much more than just being able to read words. If a child does not understand what he/she is reading, he/she is not reading with success. Thinking and understanding do not take place automatically. They are directly related to the child's language and experiences.

1. Ask questions about a story that stimulate thinking: "What else could he have done?" "Can you make up a different ending?" "What do you think this story is about?"

2. Ask important questions that drive the flow of the story ("What is the major problem that ____ has?" , "Why is ____ in trouble?"

3. Ask questions that encourage your child to use knowledge he/she already has. ("Based on what you've read, what do you think will happen next? Why do you think so?"

REMEMBER: Your child should be able to briefly tell what the story is about, recall important details, give a sequence of events, discuss the setting, characters and draw conclusions from information given. Provide practice by asking good questions and guiding your child to give thoughtful answers. Be sure to give him/her enough wait time and encourage your child to be a risk taker.

Reading to Your Child is

a gift.....accept it,
an adventure.....dare it,
a duty.....perform it,
an opportunity.....take it,
a journey.....complete it,
a promise.....fulfill it,
a goal.....achieve it,
a puzzle.....solve it.

*Patricia A. Edwards



Important Distinctions Between Good and Poor Readers

Good Readers:

Use many different word analysis strategies to identify unfamiliar words.

Poor Readers:

Rely on a one-word analysis strategy, usually *"Sounding out"* when they encounter an unfamiliar word.

Good Readers:

Self correct if a word does not make sense. They read for meaning.

Poor Readers:

Ignore their errors and read on. Their reading is often meaningless.

Good Readers:

Re-read favorite books and become fluent readers.

Poor Readers:

Seldom read and thus rarely experience fluency.

Good Readers:

Seek out books by favorite authors.
Read for pleasure
Discuss books with their friends.

Poor Readers:

Don't notice who wrote their books.
Feel reading doing worksheets, flash cards or barking" at print
Read because it is a school assignment.
Do not discuss their reading.