

Help Strengthen Your Child's Reading Skills

Reading is arguably the most important skill your child can learn in the early years of their education. But why?

Reading lays the groundwork for your student's ability to excel in all other subjects. From early education through third grade, students are taught various skills and concepts required for reading. After third grade, students are expected to use their reading skills to comprehend all their other subjects, like science, history, math, and more.

Nurture strong reading skills in your child with these tips:

Diversify reading materials around your house.²

As children learn to read, they may want to practice throughout the day! Ensure they've got a variety of options to choose from for both fun and reference.

Encourage and praise reading aloud.²

Reading aloud is not only a great practice method for your child but also a fantastic indicator of how their skills are developing. Offer reading every other page or chapter to keep the activity engaging.

Write little notes for your child.²

It could be a note in their lunch, household responsibilities, or any quick message they can read throughout the activities of their day.

Try activities that incorporate reading.²

Lots of family friendly activities actually require reading to complete: Board game instructions, cooking or baking recipes, toy builds, and so much more! Encourage your child to read with you through each task. This is also a great vocabulary expander!

Keep writing materials around.²

Reading and writing abilities are closely linked. Give your child ample access to writing materials like pencils, markers, crayons, and paper to foster writing and spelling practice.

Visit the library frequently.²

Library and bookstore visits are excellent ways to invigorate your child's interest in reading. They have hundreds of options across genres and topics. Allow your child to pick out a handful of books they want to bring home.

Remember that rereading is OK!³

Rereading books is a great way to build a child's reading skills! Even if they are familiar with the text, rereading helps build speed, accuracy, and confidence in reading aloud.

There is no rush; be patient.³

When practicing with your child, try not to rush them as they sound out words or get caught up on sounds. Careful listening will make it easier for you to tell what they're struggling with and help them work through the challenge. Remember to praise their efforts; mistakes are all learning opportunities.

Pick books at the right level.³

Your child may be struggling to progress in their reading skills if they're reading materials that are too hard or too easy for them. Check out one of our other free resources titled "Ways to Assess Your Child's Reading Level at Home" to help you determine what grade-level books they should be reading.

Sing along to some learning songs!²

Memorizing catchy educational songs is a great way to help readers of all ages grasp a variety of concepts. There are tunes to learn the alphabet, conjunctions, and other language concepts, and also songs to learn the 50 states, all the bones in the body, and limitless additional options to discover!

Find a book club in your community.¹

Whether meeting in-person or virtually, encourage your child to join a book club or literary circle with their peers in your community. Book programs such as these help students make friends, participate in thoughtful discussions, consider different viewpoints, and hopefully discover new passions for titles they've never heard of.

References:

¹ <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/gradeschool/school/Pages/10-Tips-to-Help-Your-Child-Fall-in-Love-with-Reading.aspx>

² <https://www.readingrockets.org/topics/activities/articles/encouraging-your-child-read>

³ <https://www.understood.org/articles/14-ways-to-encourage-your-grade-schooler-to-read>