

## Nurturing Young Minds Through Literature: The Keys To Helping Children Love to Read



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## Reasons Why Children Do Not Like To Read

- ◆ Reading is boring
- ◆ Reading is not active
- ◆ Reading takes too much time out of my busy schedule
- ◆ Reading means you have to sit still and not do anything
- ◆ Books are too long

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## Reasons Why Children Like to Read

- ◆ Books are fun
- ◆ Books are exciting
- ◆ Reading shows intelligence
- ◆ Reading gives you something to do
- ◆ Reading helps expand knowledge and imagination
- ◆ Books helps children to be more creative
- ◆ Reading exposes children to different lives and different places in the world
- ◆ Reading teaches new vocabulary words
- ◆ Books nourishes a child's imagination

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## From Where Do Avid Readers Come?

Avid readers acquire their love of reading at home, from their parents, other adults and other children. No teacher can pass along a passion for books the way a caretaker can. Good readers remember cozy bedtime stories, sharing books with friends and siblings, and, most importantly, the freedom and encouragement to read whenever they wanted to. (Mary Leonhardt)



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## All Children Are Different

All children are different and what works for one child may not work for another. Get to know the child! Anything to do with reading or writing has to be fun. If you tune into the child's interests and passions, you'll be able to develop your own strategies for giving a lifelong love of reading. This could be the best gift your ever give the child. (Mary Leonhardt)



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## The Age of Wonder: Three to Five

- ◆ This is a great age! Children at this age are willing to curl up with you for story time, play pretend games centered around books or practice early writing skills by drawing. It is important at this age for the child to love anything to do with books; so don't push anything on them. Early reading skills come later.



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## What Can I Do From Three To Five?

- ◆ Put on theme picnic in the park or back yard and bring along books that match the theme. Foods that compliment the theme will heighten the curiosity of the child too.
- ◆ Designate a comfy corner near where the family congregates and name it "Matthew's Reading Corner." Decorate a box to hold books for the child and add a pillow and some favorite pals.
- ◆ Use the appropriate voice when reading to show expressions.

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## Three to Five...

- ◆ Help your child guess which letters the words for common objects start with.
- ◆ Label furniture and objects around the house with colorful name tags to help with word recognition.
- ◆ Make reading special with costumes and role playing.
- ◆ Read "predictable" books such as Whistle for Willie or The Snowy Day.

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## The Age of Discovery: Six to Eight

- ◆ This is a really exciting time, the years when most children begin reading on their own. Make sure they have plenty of really easy reading material around.
- ◆ Make them feel like they are great readers. Encouragement is very important at this age. Celebrate their literary milestones. This sends a very important message to your child.
- ◆ Allow the child to transition from picture books to chapter books gradually. Visual children will keep picture books around for a while and that is okay.



## What Can I Do From Six To Eight?

- ◆ Use books to build hobbies. By choosing one of your child's favorite activities and planning a book activity around it, you show your child that books are a great way to learn more about the things he loves.
- ◆ Write down your child's stories. To get your child actively involved in the world of words, let them dictate little stories that you help make into books. Let your child illustrate their books.




## Six to Eight...

- ◆ Let the child help you write a shopping list.
- ◆ Let the child distribute the mail to everyone in the house.
- ◆ Point out signs as you go about your day.
- ◆ Let the child create a menu for the meal you are preparing.
- ◆ Ask older children to read picture books to their younger siblings.
- ◆ Listen to audio books in the car.
- ◆ Read to the child often and listen to your child read to you.
- ◆ Talk to the child about what they are reading.



## The Age of Adventure: Nine to Ten

- ◆ Many children are into series books and category fiction, such as mystery and fantasy, by this age. Be aware that this is the age when children are also submerged in organized activities and reading can very easily be crowded out of children's schedules. Don't let that happen! Children who start reading only what they have to read for school can start slipping behind.





## What Can I Do From Nine To Ten?

- ◆ Have reading time weekly
- ◆ Have the child form a reading club
- ◆ Encourage family members to give books as gifts
- ◆ Subscribe to a magazine for the child
- ◆ Ask the child about the book
- ◆ Keep a dialogue journal with the child. This encourages thoughts about the reading you are doing.
- ◆ Try to relate the story to real life experiences




## Nine to Ten...

- ◆ Have write-a-story parties with their friends
- ◆ Have a joke book party
- ◆ Plan a play-reading party
- ◆ Have a big brother/little brother bookstore trip
- ◆ Have a father/son habit of reading the daily box scores in the newspaper
- ◆ A project of making family history scrapbooks is nice similar to a lifebook
- ◆ Start a mother/daughter reading club



## Coming of Age: Eleven through Teen


- ◆ This is the age when many children tire of children's books. Friends are becoming very important, so aim for social activities that involve books. It is very important to set the stage for independent reading in high school.


## What Can I Do From Eleven Through Teen?

- ◆ Subscribe to a sports magazine. Athletic children seem to be especially at high risk for never having time to read
- ◆ Take trips to book-related places.
- ◆ Use the public library to study
- ◆ Buy books on a Kindle , Ipad or other devices that can make reading fun




## Eleven through Teen...



- ◆ Ask your child to read to younger siblings.
- ◆ Plan a book party for your children and their friends and then take them to see the movie or rent it. Compare and contrast the movie and the book.
- ◆ Limit time in front of the TV
- ◆ Summer Reading: Choose books that has a movie, ex. Amastad; To Kill a Mocking Bird


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## Remember...

- ◆ Get the child a library card and take him to the library frequently
- ◆ Allow the child to explore different genres of literature to meet his interests
- ◆ Spend more money on books than videos (however; remember the visual learners)
- ◆ Keep books and magazines in the car and encourage reading on the go.
- ◆ Let the child read as long as he wants to.
- ◆ Resolve that reading will be the most important educational goal for the child.

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## Remember...




- ◆ Children of all ages love to be read to
- ◆ Become involved in the child's school. This lets the child know that you value the home-school connection and you are concerned about their education
- ◆ Let the child see you read a variety of materials. Showing is always more powerful than telling!
- ◆ Read to the child often and talk about books

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## You Can Make A Difference



- ◆ Never give up on a child
- ◆ Be a positive reinforcement
- ◆ Encourage the child
- ◆ Think about how the child views things


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## Resources Available to Parents

- ◆ *Sesame Street Magazine (ages 2-6)*
- ◆ *Ranger Rick (ages 3-8)*
- ◆ *Zoobooks (ages 4-12)*
- ◆ *Sports Illustrated for Kids (ages 7-13)*
- ◆ *National Geographic World (ages 8-13)*
- ◆ *Penny Power (ages 8-14)*
- ◆ *3-2-1 Contact (ages 8-14)*


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## More Resources

- ◆ *99 Ways To Get Kids To Love Reading*
- ◆ *Basketball Digest*
- ◆ *Cricket*
- ◆ *Disney Adventures*
- ◆ *Highlights for Children*
- ◆ *Humpty Dumpty*
- ◆ *Jack and Jill*
- ◆ *Stone Soup*
- ◆ *Turtle*
- ◆ *Kid City*

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## References

- ◆ *Family Fun Magazine*
- ◆ *Managing the Whole Language Classroom*
- ◆ <http://www.the-best-childrens-books.org/Classic-Childrens-Books.html>
- ◆ <http://comminfo.rutgers.edu/professional-development/childlit/ChildrenLit/>

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