



Activities to Promote Reading at Home PreK – 2nd Grade

Model positive reading habits

- Let your children see you read for pleasure.
- Share your excitement for reading with your kids. Talk about what you are reading and why you're reading it.
- Give books as presents for holidays or as rewards for special accomplishments.

Make reading part of regular family activities

- Schedule time into your daily/weekly schedule for the whole family to sit down and read.
- Take a trip to the local bookstore, or an online bookstore, and shop for books as a family.
- Visit the library as a family; help each other select books to read.
- Attend readings by favorite authors at local bookstores and libraries. If possible, purchase the book and let your child get the author's signature.
- Encourage older children to read to younger children (siblings, cousins, neighbors, and even stuffed animals make great audience members).

Read aloud to each other

- Read your child's favorite stories aloud to him/her.
- Let your child read aloud to you. Reading the same book multiple times is natural and beneficial for new readers. You might also want to try reading a page to your child then ask your child to read the same page back to you. Keep it fun or make it into a game.
- Practice the names of letters and the sounds the letters make. "Do you see the letter 'b' on the page? What sound does that letter make?"
- Practice the sounds in words with your child. Young children often don't hear all the sounds that make up words. Use rhyming words: cat-> hat -> mat -> bat. Sound words out with your child: "Where's your book? B-b-b--oooo-k."

Create a reading environment in your home

- Set up a comfortable space in your home for reading, free from distractions like TV/computer/games/phones. Placing pillows or cushions on the floor is an easy way to make your regular space into a reading space.
- Have reading materials throughout your home and easily accessible to your children.
- Leave notes for your child in his/her lunch box or school bag, or around the house. There's no more purposeful reading than to read something that is written for them!
- Always bring a book to read on public transportation and when you anticipate having to wait in a line (like at the doctor's office).
- Create a special place for your children to keep their books in the home (a specific section of a bookshelf, a box in their room, etc.)

Talk about books

- At dinner, or other informal times, ask your children about the book they are reading.
- Use reading questions to have deeper conversations about books.
- Share your childhood memories about reading and books. Talk about your own favorite kid's books and authors, your struggles/successes with reading, etc.

Provide books aligned to your child's interests

- Notice what your child is most interested in reading and provide them with more reading materials on that topic/genre.
- Encourage relatives to give books as gifts. Suggest topics in which your child is interested.
- Ask a teacher or librarian for book suggestions—they usually know the new and popular reading material for children of different ages.

If needed, provide some incentives for reading

- Allow kids to stay up past their bedtime (10-15 minutes) to finish reading a book or chapter.
- Allow kids to watch additional minutes of television in return for reading at home.
- Keep a list or chart of the books read, set a goal, and determine a special reward for meeting that goal.

More magazine suggestions:

https://www.heinemann.com/shared/companionResources/E01230/Harvey_Magazines.pdf

