



## *Have you ever wondered how you can support Reading outside of school ?*

Students of all ages need daily reading practice to help build strong literacy skills.

Parents, guardians, and other adult family members can have a huge impact on a child's reading success. Below are effective, research-driven tips designed to help support reading at home and on the go. Take a look!



### 1. Encourage choice

Being in charge, making choices, and deciding what to do—these are powerful motivators, especially when it comes to reading in our children.

Nearly nine out of ten children ages 6–17 say their favorite books are the ones they picked out themselves. A similar number say they are more likely to finish books they chose.

Allowing kids to choose from a limited number of options is a great way to boost reading motivation while keeping them on task.

### 2. Support discovery

Families underestimate how hard it can be for some kids to find books they enjoy. Help your child discover their next great read. Take them to a local library or bookstore and give them plenty of time to browse the shelves. Ask your child's teacher for age-appropriate recommendations. Download the annual [What Kids Are Reading report](#), which lists the most-read and highest-rated books by grade, for awesome kid-tested suggestions.

### 3. Set a good example

Show your child that you value reading. If you want to see your child read at home, then make sure your child sees you reading at home. This can include reading books, magazines, and newspapers for pleasure, but it can also be reading recipes aloud when you cook a meal or letters aloud when you sort mail, reading driving directions when on a trip or instructions when assembling furniture, or even reading long-form articles online.

### 4. Read aloud

Did you know most families stop reading aloud to children after age 5, but the vast majority of kids enjoy hearing books read aloud well past that age? In fact, the majority of middle schoolers say listening to someone read aloud is one of their favorite reading activities! If you think about it, even adults love hearing their favorite books read aloud; audio books are the fastest-growing segment in the digital publishing industry. Make reading aloud a frequent family activity, no

matter how old your child is! If you have an older child, take turns, alternating between reading aloud to your child and listening to your child read aloud.

## 5. Start a family book club

Reading doesn't have to be a solitary activity. Many children enjoy the social aspects of reading. Take talking about reading to the next level by starting a family book club. Depending on your child's age, you may want to gather for group discussions after each chapter, after finishing the entire book, or at other regular intervals. This is a great way to build reading skills and a sense of togetherness simultaneously! You may also want to grow your book club by inviting your child's friends, your extended family, or your neighbors to participate. You can even have book club discussions with participants who are far away—set up a private Facebook group, email thread, shared Google doc, or other collaborative medium. Helping your child craft responses to posts has the added benefit of strengthening their writing skills on top of their reading skills.

## 6. Keep full bookshelves

Multiple studies have found that access to books at home is critical for kids. The kids who read most frequently are also the ones who have the highest number of books in the home. Kids who have lots and lots of books in their home are also more likely to be diversified readers who explore a broad range of materials.

Remember that reading materials don't have to be new or expensive to be amazing! There are many ways to fill your home with reading materials without breaking the budget:

- Browse yard and garage sales, used book stores, public library book sales, and clearance events for books and magazines.
- See if your school or neighborhood has a community book exchange or book swap.
- Ask family and friends to consider gifting books and magazine subscriptions for birthdays or holidays.
- Check out books from your public library (just be sure to return them on time).
- Find out if any of your subscription services or memberships include free or discounted books or magazines.
- See if there are nonprofits in your area that supply free books for kids.
- If you travel, be sure to take reading materials with you whenever possible so that your child always has an opportunity to read, no matter where they are.

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