

What Can Parents Do To Promote a Love of Reading with Children in Grades K-5?

1. Set aside a family reading time each day or at least several times per week. Older children can read to themselves, and parents or siblings can read aloud to younger children. Make this a special time when family members relax and enjoy reading.
2. Give books or magazines as gifts for birthdays, holidays or other important celebrations. Carefully consider your children's interests and reading levels to choose books or magazines that they will love.
3. Make regular trips as a family to the library. Most libraries provide special programs such as story times, book clubs, author presentations and holiday events. Spend time browsing with your children for interesting books, magazines, DVDs and other materials to check out and enjoy.
4. Audio books provide a great way for families to listen to books while driving or relaxing at home. By listening to audio books, the whole family can enjoy and then discuss books together. Ask the children's librarian for suggestions of audio books that will appeal to your family.
5. Start a 15 minute late-night reading routine at your home. Allow your children to stay up 15 minutes later if they read. Children can read independently or with their parents or siblings.
6. Most children enjoy reading series books because the characters become friends and reading these books is easy, relaxing and enjoyable. Some popular series books for elementary students include *Arthur* (Marc Brown), *Junie B. Jones* (Barbara Park), *Captain Underpants* (Dav Pilkey), *Magic Treehouse* (Mary Pope Osborne), *Harry Potter* (J.K. Rowling), *A Series of Unfortunate Events* (Lemony Snicket), *America Girls* (Valerie Tripp), and the Matt Christopher sports books.
7. Play word games together to build interest in words. Some new word games are *Scrabble Flash*, *Blurt*, *Bananagrams* and *Apples to Apples Junior*. You can also play favorites such as Hangman or online word games at word-games.pogo.com.
8. Encourage your children to become aware of and interested in vocabulary words around them. Have each family member serve as the Word Wizard one day per week. That family member can choose an interesting word to bring to breakfast or dinner to share with the family. Post this word on the refrigerator and have each family member listen and look for it and report back the next day how many times they encountered the word. If a family of four does this activity four times per week, your children will be learning over 200 interesting words per year.
9. Stash books and magazines where your children will be – in the car, in their bedrooms and even in the bathroom.
10. Be a reading role model. Be sure your children see you reading for pleasure on a regular basis. If your children see you reading, they will begin to understand that reading is valued in your family.
11. Read comics, jokes, riddles and puns together. Read the comics from the newspaper or joke books from the library. Humor websites for children are another fun resource you may want to read and enjoy with your children. An excellent free website that contain jokes, riddles and puns is: jokesbykids.com/.
12. Plan a book swap with your neighbors, friends or other family members who have children the same age as yours. Each family can bring books and magazines to recommend and trade.

We're here to help

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