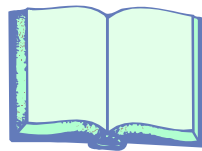




# Promoting Reading

You are your child's first - and most important teacher. Here are 8 ways you can help your child become a reader.



❶ **Read yourself.** When your kids see you reading the newspaper or curling up with a book, they will want to follow your example.

❷ **Make sure your children read or you or someone else reads to them daily.** Reading - like shooting baskets and playing the piano - is a skill. Children who spend at least 30 minutes a day reading for fun - develop the skills to be better readers at school.

❸ **Get the library habit.** Make sure everyone in your family has a library card. Schedule regular trips to the library.

❹ **Read aloud to your children.** This is the most important thing a parent can do to help their children become better readers.

Tips for reading:

- \*start reading to them when they are young
- \*don't stop reading to them as they grow up
- \*set aside some time each day for reading (bedtime, breakfast, or just after dinner)
- \*read books you enjoy - your kids will know

❺ **Use your newspaper** to encourage reading: a **scavenger hunt**. Give your child a list of things to find in today's newspaper. Here are some ideas:

- \*a map  of the U.S.
- \*a picture of an athlete
- \*3 words beginning with "w"

❻ **Give books as gifts.** Then find a special place for your children to keep their own library.

❼ **Make reading a privilege.** Say, "You can stay up 15 minutes later tonight if you read in bed." Or you might say, "Because you helped with the dishes, I have time to read you an extra story."

❽ **If you are not a good reader,** as your children learn to read, ask them to read

to you. Talk about the books your children have read. Ask a friend or relative to read aloud.

Reprinted from "8 Ways Parents Can Promote Reading at Home" (Caregiver News, April 1993).

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For more information contact:



**The Center for Parent Involvement** (FCPI) was funded by the U.S. Department of Education; Goals 2000, Educate America Act from 1994-1999. Guided by an advisory board of parents and professionals, the FCPI's goal was to tap the power of parents.

The FCPI gathered information on parent needs, coordinated the information, and created a series of resources organized by theme, including fact sheets for parents and professionals, "Beyond the Basics" resources, and resource identification lists. Many of the resources have been translated into Spanish language versions, and every effort has been made to preserve the meaning and flavor of the original English documents. This series of materials provides a wealth of current information for both parents and providers; the complete set of resources can be obtained in PDF format on the Department of Child and Family Studies Website at [www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/dares/fcpi](http://www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/dares/fcpi). The staff of the FCPI are hopeful that their work will continue to help children get ready to learn for many years to come.

The series' themes include:

- Family Empowerment
- Parent Involvement
- Parenting Support
- School Readiness
- Violence in the Lives of Children
- Transition to Kindergarten

The Center was one component of a project led by Hillsborough County Center of Excellence in collaboration with the Department of Child & Family Studies at USF's de la Parte Institute and the Florida Children's Forum. Other project partners include HIPPY (Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters), Hillsborough County Head Start and Hillsborough County Even Start. For more information about these projects, call 813.974.4612.

Parent Involvement, Parent Tip Sheets, #3: Promoting Reading

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