



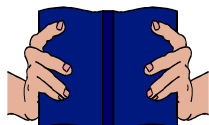
# PROMOTING READING AT HOME

**A**s a parent, you are your child's first - and most important - teacher.

**H**ere are eight ways you can help your child become a better reader.

## ① Read yourself.

Your actions really do speak louder than your words. When your kids see you reading the newspaper or curling up with a book, they will want to follow your example.



## ② Make sure your children read every day.

Reading - like shooting baskets and playing the piano - is a skill. Like other skills, it gets better with practice. Researchers have found that children who spend at least 30 minutes a day reading for fun - whether they read books, newspapers, or magazines - develop the skills to be better readers at school.

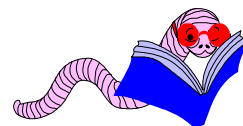
## ③ Get the library habit.

Make sure everyone in your family has a library card. Schedule regular trips to the library. While you are there, check out a book yourself!

## ④ Read aloud to the children.

In *\*The Read Aloud Handbook\**, research shows that this is the most important thing parents can do to help their children become better readers. Here are some tips from the book:

- ⇒ Start reading to your children when they are young. It is never too early to begin reading to your children.
- ⇒ Don't stop reading to your children as they grow older. You will both enjoy the chance to do something together.
- ⇒ Set aside some time each day for reading aloud. Even 10 minutes a day can have a big impact. Bedtime is a natural reading aloud time. Other busy families read aloud at breakfast



A project of The Florida Partnership for Parent Involvement

Center of Excellence ♦ Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute ♦ Florida's Children's Forum  
Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters ♦ Hillsborough County Head Start ♦ Hillsborough County Even Start.

or just after dinner.

⇒ Read books you enjoy. Your kids will know if you are faking it. They are very perceptive at times!

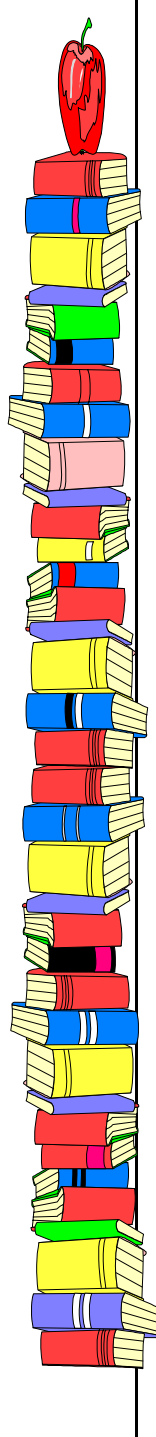
**⑤ Here is a way to use your newspaper to encourage reading:**

A scavenger hunt. Give your child a list of things to find in today's newspaper. Here are some ideas:

- ⇒ A map of the United States.
- ⇒ A picture of your child's favorite athlete.
- ⇒ The temperature in the city where a family member lives.
- ⇒ Three words that begin with "w".
- ⇒ A movie that is playing at a nearby theater.

**⑥ Give books as gifts.**

Then find a special place for your children to keep their own library.



**⑦ 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."

**⑧ If you are not a good reader, you can still encourage your children.**

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 to your children.

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**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 HIPPIY (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.

School Readiness Series, Parent Tip Sheets, #18: Promoting reading at home.

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