Literacy Newsletter

Creating healthy reading habits from an early age has so many benefits. For one, reading early to your child helps build comprehension skills, encourages imagination, and sparks curiosity. But what goes into developing the right reading habits, and how can parents implement them at the right time to encourage a lifelong love of reading?

It’s critically important to maintain the right reading habits throughout the years once you begin. Studies show that as children grow older, their desire to read declines, specifically at the age of nine — a phenomenon known as the “decline by nine.”

According to the Scholastic Kids & Family Reading Report, “A child turning nine is generally found in a third grade classroom, a critical year in a child’s academic journey. Landmark research by the Annie E. Casey Foundation has previously shown that reading proficiency by third grade is a clear predictor of academic success.”

The good news is, there are effective ways to counteract this decline in reading in children and, in fact, boost their love of reading overall while working to develop reading habits.

Lizette Serrano, Vice President of Educational Marketing at Scholastic and experienced teacher, has strategies that will ensure your child’s reading success. With these tips, families can create and maintain the right reading habits for their children, whether they’re reluctant readers or voracious ones.

Bond Over Books

Finding books that you can bond with your child over is one of the most effective ways of keeping their interest in books alive and develop reading habits. When your child sees your enthusiasm for the books you read, their own joy with their reading materials will flourish as well.

“Reading is an inherently social activity,” says Serrano. “Bonding over books is a powerful way to support social-emotional growth as children learn about the world around them.”

Another idea is to act out books you choose to read together. Creating a theater and decorating a stage, setting up an “audience,” and letting your child choose the parts they want to play will get their imagination flowing. Not to mention, it’s the perfect way to make new memories they’ll treasure forever.

“These special moments create a lasting memory that will be associated with a story and imprint a love of reading,” says Serrano. “You can also create this experience with raising a confident reader by inviting them to gather an audience with their favorite stuffed animals, dolls, a row of cars, or their pet.”

Source: Scholastic
WHAT CAN WE DO AT HOME?

Family support boosts student’s learning. Try these fun games and activities to reinforce and build your growing reader’s literacy skills from home.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BECOME A STRONG READER?

1. Understanding what print is and the parts of a book.
2. Recognizing the sounds in spoken words.
3. Connecting the sounds of speech with letters.
4. Reading with accuracy and expression.
5. Knowing what each word means.
6. Understanding what you read.

Source: Reading Rockets

RESOURCES

*“Level It Books” - This app helps you find a “good fit” book at your child’s reading level.

*Non-Fiction for Kids—Reading Rockets has some great tips and tricks for integrating more non-fiction and information text into your reading routines.

https://www.readingrockets.org/books/nonfiction-for-kids