Healthy reading habits are extremely important and can begin at a very young age. Families, you can help create healthy reading habits for your students. Here are some helpful tips.

**Keep a Variety of Reading Materials Available**

One key thing to remember when establishing good reading habits is that you don’t have to stick with just books or certain genres of books. A variety of reading materials will ensure that kids are exposed to different styles of writing and print, therefore broadening their horizons and sparking new interests. Create a print rich environment at home. Help your child create their own personal home library.

Journals, newspapers, magazines, cookbooks, graphic novels, and other forms of media are perfect examples to try out with your aspiring reader. Kids do love reading books—but not just any books. No surprise: kids want to read books that make them laugh and that introduce them to new places, new cultures, and new kinds of people.

**Comics and graphic novels** help bridge the gap between what children read and what they envision the characters doing (in other words, visualization skills), which improves reading comprehension and makes the perfect practice tool for striving readers.

“Graphic novels — just like traditional forms of literature — can be useful tools for helping kids critically examine aspects of history, science, literature, and art,” says Serrano. “Graphic novels combine all these elements in their own unique way. Graphic novels and comics have been embraced by librarians and educators as mainstream literature that powerfully motivates kids to read — and we all need to get on board!”

**Audiobooks** have also found their place in parents’ libraries for their children, and for good reason.

“Audiobooks help build and enhance literacy skills such as fluency, vocabulary and pronunciation,” says Serrano. “They have the power to boost our mood and captivate our imaginations. Play audiobooks in the car to and from school, or on the way to the grocery store or a road trip. You and your child will work together with the narrator and author to create mental pictures of situations and characters.”

**Poetry, Spoken Word, and Music**

Literacy is abundant in these creative ways of self-expression! Engage your child in all creative expressions and encourage them to create their own. For example, if you sing from a hymnbook at church, point to the words so that your child can begin to make the connection that songs have printed words and that music notes convey meaning. Singing songs, especially songs with rhymes, helps children develop their phonological awareness which will transfer into phonics skills when they enter school.

Sources: [Scholastic](https://www.scholastic.com/) and [https://www.rif.org/](https://www.rif.org/)
NOVEMBER EVENTS

~American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month
Celebrate the stories of Native Americans with these booklists from Colorín Colorado.
https://www.colorincolorado.org/books-authors/books-kids/american-indian-alaska-native-heritage

~National Picture Book Month
~National Novel Writing Month
NOV 8 - 14:
~Fall Children’s Book Week
NOV 11:
~Veterans Day
Share books from our Veterans Day: Read Across America Booklist to help kids understand why we honor those who have served the United States.
https://www.worldcat.org/profiles/ReadAcrossAmerica/lists/3885887

Source: Read Across America

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.

Poems are more than just written words, and reading a poem aloud reveals the power of rhythm and rhyme. Help your reader develop fluent reading skills – in all types of texts – with this poetry activity.

Have kids create a beat to go with a fun poem. (Just tapping a pencil on the table will work!) Then, have them record themselves reading the poem in rhythm with the beat. Challenge other family members to try this, too, and host a poetry slam.

RESOURCES
Read Across America partner KidLit TV is a diverse group of parents, educators, librarians, kid lit creators, and award-winning filmmakers working together to create fun new ways to reinforce an appreciation of reading that children will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

Children can experience authors and illustrators reading their works through KidLit TV’s Read Out Loud program, which includes an array of titles featuring diverse people and cultures. Find more read-alouds, plus podcasts, activity ideas, book trailers, and more at their award-winning website.

https://www.kidlit.tv/