

Five strategies can help your child discover the joy of reading

Some kids seem to have their noses constantly in a book. But others haven't found the joy of reading yet. Here are some fun things you can do with your child to encourage her to read:

1. Ask your librarian to recommend high-interest books. There are books that appeal to almost every child. Kids who enjoy adventure may find that they love the *Magic Tree House* series. Those who like to laugh may enjoy the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series.
2. Go on a library scavenger hunt. The next time you're in the library, make up a list of questions that require your child to use different reference books. Make these fun—the batting average of her favorite baseball player, the average temperature at Disney World. When she finds the answers, give her a small reward.
3. Keep track of how many books your child reads. Paste a sticker on a chart for each book she completes. Or, encourage her to make a paper chain—one link for each book. Can she make a chain long enough to stretch around her entire room? The whole house?
4. Look for audio books. There are wonderful recordings of favorite books—many may be available in your public library. Sometimes just hearing the words to a book can encourage a child to go back and read it later.
5. Read aloud. It's one of the most traditional ways to get kids to read—and it really works! Choose a book you both enjoy, set aside 15 minutes for reading and invite your child to snuggle up with you.

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