

BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Hay Springs Public Schools

Get your family into a reading routine at the beginning of the school year

Reading with your child every day is one of the best ways to improve her reading skills. Establish a regular reading time at the beginning of the school year, and it will become routine in no time!

To develop reading routines and make reading a regular part of your family's schedule:

- **Bring books anywhere** your child may need entertainment (in the car, on the bus, in line at the grocery store, etc.).
- **Read favorite books** at the breakfast table before school.
- **Visit the library regularly** and fill a special bag with new books to read.
- **Celebrate what you read.** Have themed book dinners as a family. Hang a paper "reading tree" on the wall and add a leaf for each book your child reads.



Source: "Family Reading Traditions," Family Reading Partnership, niswc.com/family_reading_routines.

"A book is the only place in which you can examine a fragile thought without breaking it."

—Edward P. Morgan

Teach your child 'active' reading strategies

Your child's homework is to read a passage of his textbook. He looks the section over, and he's ready to begin. Help him read "actively," rather than just reading straight through without stopping. This involves doing things while he reads. Remind your child to:

- **Stop and think.** What are the main points? What has he learned? Is anything confusing? How does the material relate to other things that he has learned?
- **Restate what the book says.** If your child puts things in his own words, it may reassure him that he "gets it."
- **Make a list of confusing points.** This will help your child figure out exactly what concepts he needs to ask his teacher to clarify.

Source: "Lesson #11—Textbook Reading, Part 2," PinkMonkey.com, niswc.com/textbook_reading_strategies.

Talking with your child builds reading and language skills

Talking with your child provides countless benefits. When he talks with you, your child builds vocabulary and conversation skills. He develops thought patterns and makes connections that will boost language and reading skills, too.

So talk with your child often. Ask about what he's learning in school. Discuss his hobbies and interests. And of course, talk about what you're reading together!



Discuss common elements of word families

To make reading easier for your child, focus on word patterns. Together, list words that sound and look alike, such as *walk*, *talk* and *chalk*. Grouping words with similar endings can make them easier to learn.

Source: "Word Families Can Help Struggling Readers," Literacy Connections, niswc.com/word_families.



Make reading appealing to your child

As children grow older, reading may become less attractive to them. To prevent this problem, make reading irresistible to your child. Here's how:

- **Encourage your child to read** age-appropriate materials she enjoys.
- **Create a cool reading spot.**
- **Let your child stay up** on weekends to read.
- **Suggest a book swap** with friends.

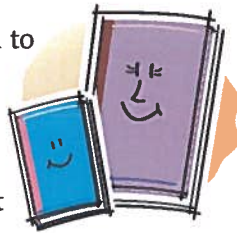


Launch a family book club!

The beginning of the school year is the perfect time to get everyone in the family excited about reading together—and starting a family book club is a great way to do it.

To get your book club started:

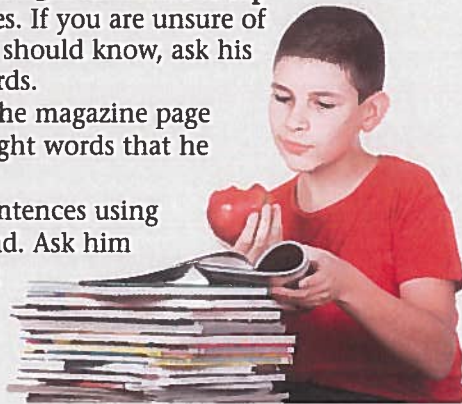
- **Pick a time.** Designate one evening a month to be your book club night.
- **Get everyone involved.** Have your child invite everyone from siblings and grandparents to join you on the big night.
- **Choose a book.** Find something exciting that no one has read yet. Make a schedule for sharing the book so that everyone will have time to read it before you meet up to discuss it.
- **Talk about the book.** What did everyone think about the characters? What differences of opinion did family members have? What was each person's favorite or least favorite part?



Search for sight words in magazines

Sight words are words your child can recognize and produce without stopping to sound them out. To help him practice them, grab an old magazine or newspaper and then:

- **Write a few of your child's sight words** at the top of some magazine pages. If you are unsure of sight words your child should know, ask his teacher for a list of words.
- **Ask your child to search** the magazine page and circle any of his sight words that he finds.
- **Have your child create** sentences using the words that he found. Ask him to read the words back to you and review their meanings as well as how they are spelled.



Q: My child is learning to read, but it's hard for her. She doesn't want to pick up books at home. How can I help?

A: Make books around the house as appealing as possible. Choose stories that include mostly familiar words. Look for subjects she loves or new topics she might embrace. Also consider books with short items

to read, such as jokes or rhymes. Books with appealing pictures are great, too!

Do you have a question about reading? Email readingadvisor@parent-institute.com.

Help your child find time to read

Reading for a few minutes before breakfast or while waiting for the bus adds up! To help your child find extra time to read:



- **Suggest reading as an option** when she says she's bored.
- **Help your child schedule** time for pleasure reading.
- **Try not to interrupt** her when she is reading.

For lower elementary readers:

- **Max's Words** by Kate Banks (Frances Foster Books). Max watches his brothers collect stamps and coins, but they won't share. So Max finds something of his own to collect.
- **Tricky Vic: The Impossibly True Story of the Man Who Sold the Eiffel Tower** by Greg Pizzoli (Viking). Learn about Robert Miller, who developed a sneaky plan to make money off France's famous landmark.



For upper elementary readers:

- **A Room With a Zoo** by Jules Feiffer (Michael di Capua Books). Julie loves animals, so she devises a plan to get as many pets as she can.
- **The Mummy's Mother** by Tony Johnston (The Blue Sky Press). When a mummy's tomb is disturbed, the mummy of a 10-year-old waits to see what will happen to his family.

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The 2017-2018

BUILDING READERS

Book List

Recommended Books for Elementary School Children

The Misadventures of Sweetie Pie by Chris Van Allsburg (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). A hamster's adventures begin when he is taken home from the pet store. Sweetie Pie experiences a number of different owners and homes before he is taken to a school, where even more new things occur. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

Robot Zot! by Jon Scieszka (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers). When Robot Zot finds himself in a kitchen on Earth, he must fend off various machines and robots—such as the blender and the toaster. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

President of the Whole Fifth Grade by Sherri Winston (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers). Brianna Justice is determined that the only way she will achieve her dreams is to become the president of her class at Orchard Park Elementary. She sets to work tirelessly ... until a new girl comes to school and challenges Brianna in the election. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

Dear Tabby by Carolyn Crimi (HarperCollins). Tabby D. Cat is an advice columnist who helps other pets in need. Tabby offers advice to animals everywhere, from a spoiled cat whose owners continually dote on him to a hamster who is stuck on a hamster wheel. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

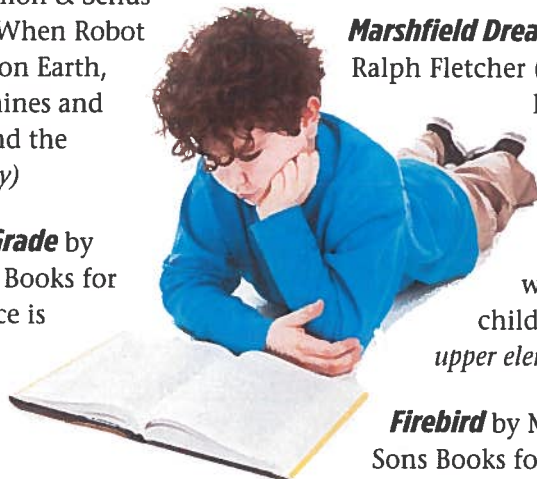
Teddy & Co. by Cynthia Voigt (Alfred A. Knopf). Teddy and the rest of a group of toys live together and take care of each other. As he wakes each morning, Teddy looks out the window and dreams of living outside. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

Sector 7 by David Wiesner (Clarion Books). While visiting the Empire State Building, a boy befriends a cloud, who takes him on a journey to see where clouds are made. There, the boy devises some unique clouds. Readers can add their own interpretations to this award-winning wordless picture book. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

Marshfield Dreams: When I Was a Kid by Ralph Fletcher (Square Fish). Author Ralph Fletcher grew up in Marshfield, Massachusetts, as the oldest of nine children. In this poignant memoir, he tells funny, sad and heartwarming stories about his childhood adventures. (*biography, upper elementary*)

Firebird by Misty Copeland (G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers). In this book based on her own life, ballerina Misty Copeland speaks to a young African American ballet student, offering encouragement and motivation in a difficult field. The advice given by Copeland reflects the famous ballet by Igor Stravinsky, *The Firebird*. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

Blackie: The Horse Who Stood Still by Christopher Cerf (Welcome Books). Although Blackie did not run around with the other horses, he managed to make himself quite useful and well known—he had a career as a rodeo horse, he lived at Yosemite National Park, and more. What Blackie enjoyed most, however, was stopping to take in all that was around him. (*nonfiction, lower elementary*)



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Crunch by Leslie Connor (Katherine Tegen Books). Dewey's parents leave him and his siblings in charge of the family store, The Bike Barn, while they're away. But when circumstances delay his parents' return, Dewey's responsibility to his family is greater than ever. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

Meow: Cat Stories from Around the World by Jane Yolen (HarperCollins Publishers). Cats are found in folktales and fables worldwide. This collection includes "The King of the Cats" from Germany and Britain, "Why Tiger is Angry at Cat" from Burma and "Rambé and Ambé," from Tibet (*folktale, lower elementary*)

The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors by Drew Daywalt (Balzar + Bray). Ever wonder about the origins of the game Rock Paper Scissors? In this hilarious book, readers will learn the true story of the legendary characters behind the game. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

The Potato Chip Puzzles: The Puzzling World of Winston Breen by Eric Berlin (Puffin Books). Winston Breen is a puzzle expert. When he and his friends are invited to a puzzle contest at a local factory, Winston sets out to prove he's the champion of puzzling. Readers will enjoy solving the puzzles along with Winston. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

One Giant Leap by Robert Burleigh (Philomel Books). In July of 1969, the spaceships *Eagle* and *Columbia* set out into outer space. While the command module *Columbia* orbited around, the *Eagle* was headed for the moon. Illustrated with beautiful paintings, this book offers a step-by-step look as the first astronauts set foot on the moon. (*nonfiction, lower elementary*)

Something Out of Nothing: Marie Curie and Radium by Carla Killough McClafferty (Farrar Straus and Giroux). From her youth in Poland in the late 1800s through her years learning at the Sorbonne in Paris, Marie Curie constantly impressed those around her with her brilliance. This biography chronicles her life's accomplishments, particularly her discovery of radium and polonium. (*biography, upper elementary*)

Punctuations Take a Vacation by Robin Pulver (Holiday House). What happens when punctuation marks are tired of being ignored? The periods, question marks and the rest of the crew are tired of being forgotten or misused by the writers in Mr. Wright's class, so they decide to take a trip. The young authors soon learn just how important those punctuation marks are. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

Liberty Porter, First Daughter by Julia DeVillers (Aladdin). When Liberty's dad is sworn in as president of the United States, she prepares herself for life in the White House. As excited as she is for the new adventure, she is nervous about the responsibility that she's about to take on. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

National Geographic Readers: Seed to Plant by Kristin Baird Rattini (National Geographic Society). Young scientists will enjoy the detailed photographs and facts about the transformation of seeds into plants. This book includes everything from what a plant needs to grow to fun facts about plants and silly jokes about plants. (*nonfiction, lower elementary*)

Iggy Peck, Architect by Andrea Beaty (Abrams Books for Young Readers). As far back as anyone could remember, Iggy Peck built extraordinary structures. Iggy used whatever he had on hand to express himself. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

