

# 5 Ways to Encourage Your Kids To Read

It cannot be overstated how important reading is for children. Reading stimulates imagination and creativity, supports cognitive development, and improves language skills. Children learn new words to increase their vocabulary and show an increase in concentration. Through books and literature, children learn empathy and emotional awareness, develop a stronger parent-child bond, and learn about the world.

The list of benefits goes on and on, but the fact is undisputed: reading rules! And the more of it, the better! So what can you do to encourage your kid to read?

## 1. Read a book together every night

Routine, as we discussed previously on this blog, helps give the feeling of structure and stability. As part of your daily routine, add in reading with your kid for 15 to 20 minutes at some point in the day -- nap and bed time are the most popular and sometimes easiest times to get reading time in. Read out loud, and point to the words as you say them to



help your child learn the connections between written and spoken words. As they grow older, encourage them to read out loud to you, and patiently help correct their mistakes. Reading together will also be a great way to bond with your child--and they will associate the happy feelings of being with you to reading in general!

## 2. Answer questions

As your child reads with you, or they read by themselves, they may come across words, concepts, or places they may not know or understand. For some, this may be discouraging or intimidating. Try to dispel these fears by encouraging them to ask questions, and do your best to answer them!

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## 3. Show by example

Kids constantly watch their parents for clues on how to act, and often mimic them. Use this to your advantage and show how much you love reading yourself! Let them see you read for fun, so they don't feel like reading is a "chore".

## 4. Read a variety of stories

When picking out books for your child to read, try to choose a variety of different stories and topics. Nonfiction or fiction, fantasy or sci-fi, train books or animal books -- mix up what you're reading so your child can be exposed to a variety of new things. However, if they end up loving a certain type of book, don't be afraid to hop on that wagon -- whatever will help them enjoy reading is a plus!

## 5. Help make the book come alive

After your child reads a book, see what you can do to enhance their experience. If the book has been made into a movie, cuddle up and watch the film together. Discuss the differences between the two versions after. You can also take certain parts of the book and bring them to life; for example, make a special food described in the book, or take a trip to the zoo to view the animals your child learned about. Connecting fantasy with reality will make the reading experience that much more magical and meaningful.

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Originally posted on the Now What? Blog on 7.8.21 The Now What? Blog served for nearly 7 years to

1. Normalize parents seeking support and help as a manner of child abuse prevention
2. Engage community in how they can work to prevent child abuse
3. Work to build resiliency in families through promotion of the 5 protective factors

Maybe you coach a baseball team or you help care for the neighbor kids from time to time. You are investing in the safety and security of the children in our community. Because it truly does take a village to raise our children, we want to offer the tools needed to bring awareness and education to preventing child abuse.

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