



Parents' Clipboard

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needed.

ELEMENTARY
LEVEL

Helping Reluctant Readers Discover the Joys of Reading



When asked to choose reading material at home, school or the library, does your child invariably pick the thinnest book he can find? Have you ever heard, "Reading is boring," from your child? Try the following tips:

- ❖ Loosen up on "rules" by telling your child he doesn't have to finish any book he doesn't enjoy reading and don't set time limits for finishing books.
- ❖ Tap into their interests by finding whatever ignites that spark of interest by offering comic books, sports magazines or the *Guinness Book of World Records*.
- ❖ Emphasis should be on enjoying and such "lightweight" books as the next installment of *The Babysitters Club*, *Beverly Cleary Books*, or *Harry Potter* may be what your child enjoys.
- ❖ Relax and if your child doesn't finish a book, just be grateful that she has a book in hand. The desire to read must come from the child.
- ❖ Read to your children and let them see you and the rest of the family reading. Beginning readers enjoy reading aloud to parents or siblings. (*The Read Aloud Handbook* by Jim Trelease has hundreds of titles and tips for parents).
- ❖ Consider treating your children to movies, videos, TV programs and plays based on books they've read. (*Indian in the Cupboard* video, *Harry Potter* movie, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* movie, *Arthur* TV program).

Progress may be slow, but never give up on a kid who isn't reading. "A love of reading is the greatest educational gift you can give your child - better than a private-school education, better than a computer, better even than a degree from Harvard. A love of reading changes everything." (Mary Leonhardt, author of *99 Ways to Get Kids to Love Reading and 100 Books They'll Love*)

LIMIT, DON'T TURN OFF, THE TV!

Did you know that students who watch no more than an hour of TV a day tend to do better academically than students who watch no television at all? The key to preventing TV from negatively affecting achievement, lies in exercising moderation, not in halting the activity altogether, according to Dr. Tom Loveless, Director of the Brown Center on Education Policy. But heavy viewing definitely takes a toll. When eighth-graders report watching three or more hours of TV daily, those students perform at significantly lower levels in both reading and math than occasional viewers.



Q&A

Q. What are some resources available through the public library to help my child with literacy?

A. The American Library Association suggests several resources available through most public libraries, including:

- ✓ Books, of course!
- ✓ Audiotapes of books, stories and songs - Great for the car
- ✓ Videos—everything from *Arthur* to *Anne Of Green Gables* to recent releases
- ✓ Magazines—find a favorite for a personal subscription
- ✓ Computers—perhaps a computer skills class
- ✓ Free Programs—running the gamut from authors to puppets to storytellers
- ✓ Preschool Story Hours—an exciting introduction to the fun of reading
- ✓ Homework Help—in some locations, a specially staffed and equipped center
- ✓ Librarians—experts in their field!

(For more information, go to www.ala.org/parentspage/.)

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