

“There are many little ways to enlarge your child’s world. Love of books is the best of all.”

JACQUELINE KENNEDY



Ask a Specialist

Q Our fourth grader is just not much of a reader. He reads from easy books the teacher says are on his level, but it isn’t something he likes to do. Any ideas?

A It’s likely that the books your son is able to read aloud are not very interesting to him. Is he extremely bright? You have good reason to be concerned; really good readers get to experience high level, more complex books that feed their curiosity. If he says reading is boring, it probably is. For awhile, until his skills catch up with his interests, you could be his intellectual “training wheels.”

In addition to the easy practice at his reading level, try this:

1. **Find out his burning interests.**
2. **Head to the library for the best books on those interests. Ignore reading level!**
3. **Now, enthusiastically read those books, etc., TO your child. Make it fun.**

You’ll help keep him from falling behind in high level language and mental development that better readers experience every time they read.

When he sees how interesting reading can be, one of these days, he’ll pull that book out of your hands.

Hottest Spanish Kids’ Magazine

IGUANA Magazine, for children ages 7-12, is highly recommended by Colorin Colorado, a bilingual web site for families of English language learners. *IGUANA* includes articles and fun facts about multicultural topics and people, puzzles, brainteasers, folk tales, and cartoons.



Parents can subscribe, or ask their school or public librarian to. Call 480-206-5474 or go to their website at Iguanamagazine.com.

Avoid On-Line Dangers to Children

“While electronic chat can be a great place for children to make new friends and discuss various topics of interest, it also is prowled by computer-sex offenders. Utilize parental controls provided by your service provider and/or blocking software.”

This advice comes from *A Parent’s Guide to Internet Safety* from the F.B.I. For more tips, go to www.fbi.gov/publications.

Television Interference?

Is television an uninvited, but distracting guest at children’s learning/playing time?

A study by the Center on Media and Child Health showed that background television affected children’s playtime.

The children were generally not looking at the television screen while playing with toys, but even so, background TV (in this case, *Jeopardy*) shortened children’s attention to their play. The children in the study were between the ages of one and three.