

Learn from the mistakes of others.
You can't live long enough to
make them all yourself.

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Summer Reading: Tips for Parents

How can I support my child with his reading progress?

Create an environment that encourages Sustained Silent Reading (SSR)

- Set aside 20 minutes a day to read.
- Create a quiet environment in which to read – no TV, radio, headphones, etc.
- Find a comfortable place to sit and read
- Sustain the reading for 20 minutes – no bathroom breaks, and no snack or drink breaks – just read.
- Make it a family event – everyone reads. Be a role model for your child. If you expect him/her to sit and read for 20 minutes, then you should do the same.

What do we read?

It is more important that your child reads; it is not as important “what” she reads. As long as there are words, paragraphs and information to process, the quality of the reading doesn't matter.

Sometimes parents assume that students have to read something challenging in order for the child to improve his reading ability – this is not true. Actually, reading can only improve when an individual understands what she is reading. Find something to read that can easily be read without having to stop every sentence or even every page to look up a word.

We all know that reading our tax forms and insurance information is challenging, but I certainly wouldn't want to curl up on the couch with them – so allow your child to choose something that they will enjoy reading. It is alright if your child is confused once in awhile, but if your child is continually confused, then reading will only be a frustrating event and not a helpful or enjoyable one.

If your child chooses a book that appears to be too difficult (they are stumbling over every sentence or every other sentence), encourage your child to abandon the book and choose a new one. Helping students to become better readers begins with offering them choice – the child's choice – not yours.



As a parent...

- Be a role model for reading
- Set aside 20 minutes for Sustained Silent Reading Each Day
- Ask your child to think about the reading by discussing it with him

Activities to follow Sustained Silent Reading:

Ask your child to do one or more of the following after she reads:

- summarize what she read during the 20 minutes.
- share the questions they have about the reading.
- share the connections (text-to-self, text-to-text, or text-to-world) he/she has while reading.
- discuss their thoughts about the author's message
- draw a picture that they found to be important in what they read and then explain why it was important

Ideas

- Go to a grocery store, book store or library and look through the magazines offered. Have your child choose a magazine that interests him and choose one for yourself. If you each find a magazine you enjoy reading regularly, you could get a subscription.
- Go to the library and have each member of the family choose a new book. Encourage your teen to check out the adolescent literature section.
- Find a topic that interests you and your child. Maybe you both like to fish, snowboard, ride horses, watch football, work with wood: choose a book or magazine that interests both of you. Read articles or chapters together and then talk about them. Discuss how you can use the information to become better at your hobbies.
- Each of you could choose a novel that you enjoy. Students who read books that come from a series (books by the same author that have continuous plot lines or characters) increase their reading stamina and fluency. After the 20 minutes of SSR, spend time sharing what happened within each of your books.