

10 Things Parents Can Do to Help Their Kids Read Better

1. Read to your child.

Read preferably every day from ages 1 to 12. Read from a variety of materials: classics and contemporary, fact and fiction.

2. Encourage writing.

Encourage scribbling and pretend writing in younger children. Encourage older children to write letters, notes, lists, and stories. Have writing materials available and accessible.

3. Have reading materials at home.

Provide a wide variety of reading materials: Bibles, magazines, newspapers, novels, picture books, recipe books, etc.

4. Get your child a library card.

Visit the library regularly and exchange books weekly. Participate in special events at the library.

5. Encourage conversation.

Talk about a wide variety of subjects, including their reading, what they are praying about, what they are doing in school, what is going in their family, with their friends, and in their church.

6. Control TV and electronics.

Limit the amount of time students can spend with TV and electronics. Have quiet times and alternative fun and engaging activities. Watch age appropriate and educational shows.

7. Model reading.

Read yourself and let your child see you reading regularly.

8. Have your child read aloud.

Encourage your child to read to you and other family members or friends. Help with mistakes. If there are many mistakes, read aloud with your child and/or select an easier book.

9. Do many informal educational activities.

Visit zoos, museums, or go on hikes. Have your child cook, construct, play games, and exercise. Help teach your child to observe carefully and discuss their observations.

10. Value school and learning.

Visit your child's class. Talk to the teacher about reading progress. Praise academic achievement.

