

ENCOURAGING READING: TIPS FOR PARENTS

Authentic Reading:

Encourage your kids to read any book, magazine, journal, comic, etc. that is of interest to them. It is important to introduce your children to the idea that reading is a meaningful and fun act, something that can be more exciting than reverting to multimedia sources for entertainment and knowledge. Therefore, if your child likes a certain hobby, athlete, actor, sport, animal, television show, movie, etc., encourage them to find related reading material to read up on.



Shared Reading:

Invite your child to read along with you. Together, find a common book or series to read (depending on age and reading level, you can read along out loud with your child, or each have your own copies and read at your own pace). Keep a running record of what you have read and once you have finished reading, get together and discuss the book. It can make for a much more enjoyable and meaningful experience and relationship for both parent and child when you get together to discuss in a new and exciting environment. For example, go to a favourite restaurant or dessert place, go to a park on a nice day and have a picnic, make dinner together and discuss the book. Movies are also often available on the book, in which case why not watch the film after talking about it?



Book Club:

Encourage your child to start a book club with their friends. Then at the end of their reading, organize with parents to hold a get together at one child's house where the kids can share their reading in a fun and enjoyable environment. This is especially good when a movie or game is adapted from the book read, in which case kids can have a movie or game night.

Trips to the Library or Book store:

It helps to encourage young readers by visiting local libraries, book stores, or magazine stores together. By helping your child become familiar and comfortable with reading and choosing what to read, they are more likely to want to continue this independently as they get older. Once a child has found an interest, either in genre, author, subject, or style, they are more likely to not feel overwhelmed by the library experience and become more willing to take it upon themselves to go.



Make Reading Widely Available:

It is helpful to have a variety of books or magazines on hand at home that children can simply pick up and read on a whim. It can be hard to stick to one text and thus, by having many short texts on hand, kids may be able to read more of a variety without feeling overwhelmed by the size of a single book in particular.

Another good trick to get your child involved in reading is to subscribe to a fun magazine in their name. This is a small but fundamental part of eliciting interest, a feeling of individuality, and an importance in what they are reading and why.