









Reading Tips

for Children Ages 5 to 9

For most children ages 5 to 9, reading is hard work. While they need support and encouragement, they don't need pressure to read more or harder books. If you feel your child is lagging behind readers of the same age, you may want to seek individualized attention for her or him. At home, use these ideas to help nurture a love of reading:

-  **Read with your child for 15 to 30 minutes daily.** Children appreciate and understand far more than they can read themselves at this stage; vocabulary growth is crucial for reading success.
-  **Make reading times special.** Relax, snuggle, and laugh while you read with your child. Read with dramatic expression. Talk about what you're reading before and after diving into a poetry book, picture book, or chapter book.
-  **Borrow and buy a variety of recommended books.** Teach children to handle books with care. Give them as gifts. These acts send the message that reading is a treasured, essential part of life.
-  **Model the importance of reading for pleasure.** Hang out together at the public library. Let your children see you reading all types of literature, including books, magazines, and newspapers.
-  **Find books that deal with issues that your child is facing in his or her own life.** Examples include making new friends, taking appropriate risks, or practicing honesty. Choose some books that focus on successfully solving problems.
-  **Use books to introduce people** of different ages, races, nationalities, genders, and abilities.
-  **Extend some readings to active play and fun activities that relate to the book you've just shared.** This will deepen your child's understanding of words, concepts, and characters' experiences. It makes books come alive for your child.
-  **Honor your child's preferences.** At the same time, try to expand her or his interests by introducing a variety of books—wordless books, animal stories, counting and alphabet books, poetry, concept and information books, and stories about friendship, families, and familiar things.