

Make Books A Special Part of Everyday Family Life!

Books at Home

The most important thing that parents can do to help their children love books and to become good readers is to include books every day in family life.

Put checks next to things that you already do, and stars next to ideas you would like to adopt for your family.

- Try to find time to enjoy reading to children every day.
- Find books to keep—at yard sales, trading with friends, at book stores (or from the Bright Red Bookshelf in our community.)
- Have many books at home, close at hand.
- Make special cozy places to snuggle and read.
- Give books as gifts for birthdays, holidays and special occasions.
- Talk about books read, and ask “why,” “how” and “what do you think” questions.
- Play with words—nursery rhymes, riddles, jokes and telling stories.
- Use books to explore the world and learn new things.
- Let children see adults read—books, newspapers, cookbooks or magazines.
- Visit the library for books to borrow.
- Let children choose books that interest them.
- Read children’s favorite books over and over if they ask.
- Look for good times to read in addition to bedtime, and try again if the timing isn’t right.
- Pass along outgrown books to friends, family, or the Bright Red Bookshelf, if children are ready to let them go.
- Read aloud even after your child can read by themselves.

Find many additional family book traditions at www.familyreading.org, and add yours to the list!



