

Tips for Reading Success

1. Have your child read for pleasure every day.

Stats: From "Reading Research Quarterly"

Top students read 65 minutes every day outside of school
Lowest students read 6 minutes or less every day outside of school
To maintain current level a student must read 20 minutes every day.

2. Read aloud to your child every day.

Stats: From "Becoming a Nation of Readers"

"The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children. This is especially so during the preschool years."

3. Limit Television Watching or Computer games to less than 1 hour per day.

Stats: From "TV-Free America, Washington D.C."

Hours per year the average American youth spends in school: 900
Hours per year the average American youth spends watching TV: 1500

4. Be a Model for your children. Let them see you enjoying reading.

5. Build your child's background knowledge by providing a variety of experiences and engaging your child in meaningful discussions.

Stats: From "TV-Free America, Washington D.C."

Parents, on average, spend only 38.5 minutes per week in meaningful conversation with their children. The rest of the talk-time is spent giving orders or directions.

6. Praise even small successes or efforts. Make them real. A child knows the difference between earned and unwarranted praise. This praise provides the incentive to try again, even harder, next time.

7. Get to know your child's teacher and make sure s/he knows you are a concerned parent.

Stats: "Conception to Kindergarten: What You Can Do to Help Your Child Succeed in School"

It is up to you to be a partner with the teacher in your child's education. The best way to become a partner is to let the teacher know how much you care and are willing to help your child. Having a good relationship with the teacher is important. S/he will feel more at ease to talk to you about areas of concern with your child, as well as confident that you will follow through on suggestions made to help your child at home.

A positive Home/School connection is important for your child's success. When your child sees that you value his/her education, s/he will view education as something necessary for overall success.