

Parents Set the Example for Children's Reading Habits: Quick Tips to Create Avid Readers

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Center Hours

Tuesdays	3:30 – 7:30 pm
Thursdays	3:30 – 7:30 pm

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Center Hours

Mondays	3:30 – 7:30 pm
Wednesdays	3:30 – 7:30 pm
Saturdays	10:00 – 2:00 pm

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Reading is an essential skill people need to succeed but fewer adults and children are reading. An alarming poll by Associated Press-Ipsos found that one in four Americans did not read any books last year. The National Endowment for the Arts, says less than one third of 13 year olds read every day and one in four high school seniors don't read at all unless it is for an assignment. Combine this information with findings from the Alliance for Excellent Education that students who read below grade level are twice as likely to drop out of school than those who could read at grade level and the importance of reading is clear. If parents want their children to do well in school they should make reading a priority for the entire family.

Reading is a necessity. People use reading everyday to gather information and make important decisions," says Jeanine Woods, reading specialist for Kumon Math and Reading Centers., "Parents need to set an example by showing children how we use reading in our everyday lives." She offers these time-efficient tips to get you and your kids reading:

Make it a family thing. Inserting reading time into the family routine can be difficult. Start by joining your local library and go each week. At home, set aside time to read as a family at least once a week. Talk with your children about their books so that they will see that you are interested. Help younger children write their own story to read to the family. Subscribe to magazines for your children that cover their interests as well as your local paper. If your child is a sports fanatic, encourage him to read up on previews of the big game and ask what he thinks will happen. If your child is a moviegoer, have her read the weekly reviews and talk about her opinion of the films.

Make your home reading ready. Create a reading area in your house that has comfortable furniture, good lighting, and most importantly books. The International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement Literacy Study found a direct link between the number of books at home and the reading development of that child. Stock this area with books that your children will enjoy, such as how to books, mysteries, comedies, reference books or even fairytales. Reading is easy when the materials are immediately available.

Do it together. In addition to reading as a family, invite your children to read with you. Show them how we use reading in our everyday lives by asking them to read the back of the cereal box, street signs, or the synopsis of a DVD that they beg you to buy for them. Ask them what they think certain words mean and have them look up unfamiliar words in the dictionary. If you find a word that you don't know, look it up with your child so that you can both learn something new. Read a newspaper article with your child. These simple activities work anywhere and demonstrate that reading is a useful life skill.

Read on the go. Keep small books handy to entertain young children while running errands. Touch and feel books are particularly exciting and educational for younger children. Always keep books in the car for children to pick up and read. Next time you take a family road trip, encourage your children to open a book to read instead of pressing "play" on the DVD or Mp3 player. If your children get carsick or are too young to read on their own, audio books can provide entertainment and are a great example of enthusiastic reading and pronunciation.

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