

Ways to Boost Your Child's Confidence as a Reader

Confidence is critical to a reader's success. Families play a crucial role in building a child's confidence. There are several things families can do to boost a child's confidence.

1. Encourage your child to read every day! The more your child reads, the more comfortable they will become. This will also increase their vocabulary and word knowledge.
2. Read to your child every day! This allows them to hear what fluent readers sound like. Reading aloud to your child will build their knowledge of how stories work and also helps increase the child's vocabulary.
3. Model mistakes. When you read to your child, make mistakes. This will show them that all readers make mistakes and that strong readers work through them to make sense of the story.
4. Have lots of reading material available around the house. Children need lots of practice with different types of stories.
5. Let your children see you reading. If your child sees that you value reading, it will encourage them to do the same.
6. Give your child choice! Let your child choose what they want to read. This will motivate them to read.
7. Build a reading bond. Share books that you enjoyed as a child and allow your child to choose their favorite books for bedtime reading. Sharing your favorite stories with each other will build a bond and your child will begin to associate reading as a pleasant experience.
8. Make time to discuss reading. However, do not feel the need to quiz your child after they read by asking a lot of questions about the story. While this is okay once in a while, doing this every time your child reads could lead to anxiety. Instead share your favorite part or talk about what you thought of the story and then allow your child to do the same. Turning reading into a quiz each night takes away the pleasure of reading. And, if you quiz your child, allow them to quiz you!
9. Limit screen time. By limiting your child's screen time, the hope is that your child will spend more time reading or interacting in play.
10. Make it a family affair. Encourage your child to read to anyone and everyone in the family, even pets. Allowing everyone in the family to participate in nightly reading will motivate your child and prove that reading is a priority for your family.