



Easy Things You Can Do At Home to Raise Readers...

- Read to your child every day. Make it a special time when you both can relax, snuggle and enjoy books.
- Build a home library and fill it with your child's favorite titles.
- Sing nursery rhymes and finger plays to introduce an awareness of speech sounds and patterns.
- Visit your local library on a regular basis and borrow a wide range of books and audio materials. Take part in activities the library provides for young children.
- Use words to describe aloud what you are doing or what you see around your house and community.
- Learning depends on repetition. It is good when children ask for favorites to be read again and again.
- Encourage your child to "read" picture books to you.
- Be a good role model by reading for enjoyment and information yourself.
- When reading aloud, use lots of expression, different voices and sound effects when appropriate.
- Read books that play with language such as poetry, tongue twisters, rhymes, and riddles.

• Office of Commonwealth Libraries,
Pennsylvania Department of Education.



And Raise Writers...

- Be sure your child has different types of writing implements such as pencils, crayons, markers and lots of paper to use them on.
- Encourage your child to tell you stories. Write them down and have your child illustrate them.
- Create labels so your child can match them to objects throughout your home.
- Before you go to the grocery store write a shopping list together. Have your child cross items off the list after you select them.
- Create scrapbooks about your family, special occasions, and trips.
- Keep a journal with your child and have him/her summarize what happens each day while you write it down.
- When you are writing notes or emailing, ask your child what he/she would like you to tell a relative or friend.
- Write a list as your child dictates to you. It could be a wish list, a to do list, etc
- Encourage print recognition in everyday situations such as street signs and local businesses.
- After a trip to a park, zoo, or other special place have your child dictate what you did, what you saw as you write it down. Have your child add pictures to complete the story.

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Tips for Family Reading at Home

- 1. Set aside time for reading every day. Pick a time that works best for you and your child. Many children like a story before bed, but story time happen any time of day. Some children may not want to sit still for a story, so work in a story with another routine—during bath time or snack time. But whenever you choose to read, make it a habit!**
- 2. Choose stories that both you and your child will enjoy. Your child will probably like stories with rhymes, repeated refrains, pictures to identify, and other interactive details. But if you enjoy the story too, your enthusiasm will show, giving story time a happy energy that your child will grow to appreciate.**
- 3. Don't be afraid to be silly! Give characters funny voices, be melodramatic, and change the words of a familiar story to something unexpected! You do not have to be a great actor to tell the story, but if children see you having fun with a story, they learn that stories are fun!**
- 4. Encourage your child to participate. Let your child predict what happens next in an unfamiliar story, and tell portions of the story themselves in a familiar one. Ask your child to identify the pictures in a book or to describe what they think is happening.**
- 5. Be a reading role model. Let your child see you pick up a book or magazine and read for your own benefit. Show your child how reading helps you find out things, like what ingredients go into dinner and what time a favorite movie is going to be on television. Model good book handling, and give books their own special places in the house.**

For more ideas and information, please visit The Pennsylvania Center for the Book at www.pabook.libraries.psu.edu/familylit/ and the Family Reading Partnership at www.familyreading.org/ and the PA One Book, Every Young Child Website at www.paonebook.org