

## Perseverance and a positive outlook can help your child overcome reading challenges

Reading is part of many home and school activities, so if your child struggles with reading, it can affect every part of life.

To help your child cope and keep reading:

- **Consult experts, including the teacher.** Ask about realistic expectations. Is your child reading at grade level? If not, what help is available?
- **Use reading materials at home** that minimize frustration. Choose books that are easy to read and understand. They should have very few difficult words.
- **Stay positive about learning.** Talk about how your child's strengths in other areas can help with reading. Praise your child for effort and persistence.



### Talking builds language skills

Having frequent back-and-forth conversations with your child provides proven benefits. Your child builds vocabulary and conversation skills, develops thought patterns and makes connections that will boost language and reading skills, too. Make time to talk together every day!



### Engage your child in literacy activities

Strong reading skills make it easier to learn every school subject. Here are three fun reading-related activities to try:

1. **Follow current events.** Is there a developing news story that interests your child? Read the latest reports together each night.
2. **Sign your child up** for a pen pal. Kids love receiving mail and learning about life in other countries. Ask your child's teacher about how to get involved.
3. **Take a virtual field trip.** Have your child research online about attractions in your area, such as museums. Then, ask your student to be your tour guide through their websites and share interesting facts.



### For lower elementary readers:

- ***The Invisible String*** by Patrice Karst. Offer hope in face of loneliness, separation and loss with this simple story about the unbreakable connections of loved ones.
- ***Scribble Stones*** by Diane Alber. Ignite your child's creativity with this story about a little stone who wanted to spread kindness.



### For upper elementary readers:

- ***Fish in a Tree*** by Lynda Mullaly Hunt. This is an inspiring story about a girl whose reading disorder makes her feel different.
- ***Max Goes to the Space Station*** by Jeffrey Bennett. Follow Max the Dog on his trip to the International Space Station and learn about space travel!



**Q:** No matter what I suggest, my second grader just doesn't like to read independently. What can I do?

**A:** When children are still learning to read in the early grades, they can become frustrated. Rather than pushing your child to work on reading skills, focus on making reading fun! Keep interesting reading material on

hand. Read in new places, such as under a table. Don't use reading as a punishment. Be patient and keep reading together!

### Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

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