

# Build interest in reading by being a role model

Children who see their parents reading usually grow up to be readers themselves. To show your child that reading is important to you:

- Let him see you reading every day. Pick up a newspaper, book or magazine. Your child will see that reading is important to you, and will want to read, too.
- Tell him why you are reading--for information, to double-check something you think you know. Or you may be reading just for pure enjoyment.
- Look up a word in the dictionary if you come across one you are unsure of. Ask your child if he knows the meaning of the word.
- Read aloud to him. When you come across something you think your child might find interesting, read a small part of it to him. He may be motivated to finish reading the article himself.
- Have your own library card and use it. When you take your child to the library, find something to check out for yourself.
- Join him. When you see your child reading, pick up something to read yourself and make a snack to share.
- Give books as gifts. Show him that books are important to you by giving them as gifts. Encourage your child to give his friends books as gifts.
- Encourage relatives to be role models for his reading habits, too. Ask them to record themselves reading a book.

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