

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD BECOME A BETTER READER

Avid readers tend to excel in many areas: writing, spelling, word problems and test taking. Struggling readers are just the opposite.

If your child lacks interest in reading or struggles to read, here are some helpful tips to try at home.

1. Read 10-15 minutes a day to your child. Bedtime is a great time to read to children. Choose a book that he/she will look forward to listening to and find interesting.
2. Create a comfortable, quiet place for reading away from distractions such as T.V., computer games, or family activities.
3. Make reading fun! Create a special reading chart for your child with stickers indicating their progress and reward them when they reach a particular reading goal. Let them buy a new book or go to the library and check out some books. Fun bookmarks, reading lights, book covers, and coloring books are fun rewards.

4. Read aloud to your child. You can also take turns reading pages, when your child begins to read. This gives your child a chance to hear voice tone, pausing at commas and stopping at periods. You can even give different characters their own accent. Children love hearing different voices. You will be amazed how they will begin to imitate these reading skills.
5. Take advantage of local library activities. These are often free and fun for your children and their friends.
6. Use fiction and non-fiction books. "Make believe" stories tend to be children's favorites, but true stories about our country, missionaries, artists, athletes, dancers, etc. are all good stories for our children to hear about "real life" people who do incredible things.
7. Read a wide variety of material: the Bible, devotionals, magazines, books and comic strips. A boy may not be particularly interested in books, but he may love specialty magazines about cars, hunting, fishing, and the outdoors and read them from front to back. Focus on the Family also has great magazines for children of all ages.
8. Find topics your child is interested in and find books that feature that topic. Chances are your child will be most interested in reading a book about his/her favorite topic.

9. Check for comprehension while reading. Stop periodically and ask questions or make comments about what was just read to make sure your child is following the story.

These are just a few ideas you can try at home to help your child enjoy reading. Plus, it can be a great relationship building time for you and your child.

References:

- www.kent.k12.wa.us/staff/TanyaMadsen/readingtips.html
 - o This document elaborates on these excellent reading tips
- www.helium.com/knowledge/151138-strategies-for-teaching-reading-skills-to
 - o Ten articles on strategies for teaching reading to elementary students

***This document was developed by the faculty and leadership of [Saint Simons Christian School](#). Feel free to copy it, distribute it, or link to it on your website. To God be the glory!