

Lighting their Spark-At Home

Parents play the most important role in their child's development and learning! Everything you and your child do together will teach important lessons that will help them grow and learn about their world. Your home is an extension of the classroom. What is learned in school should be reinforced at home. This tip sheet will provide helpful and practical information and resources for parents to encourage independent reading in the home.

Encouraging students to read at home is not the same as encouraging them to read in the classroom. Encouraging reluctant readers to read at home is even harder. Here are some easy to implement and screen-free reading tips, tricks, and activities that will help your children read at home and look forward to it, too!

1. Create an At-Home Reading Space

Classroom setups may include an area designated for reading. If possible, create a space for children to relax and enjoy a good book at home. Ideas to put in their special at home reading nooks include pillows, blankets, a book box, bookmark, and flashlight for nighttime reading!

2. Let Them Choose

Help children find books that they will enjoy, such as books on topics that interest them, different book series, books by a favorite author, and so on. Over time, encourage children to explore a various types of text, such as nonfiction books, fiction books, magazines and newspapers, poetry, etc., as well as different topics.

3. Set Reading Goals

Encourage reading at home by setting goals. Set goals on reading time, number

of books read, and new words learned from reading. Award children for reaching goals and set new challenging goals. Also, look for local reading incentive programs like Miss Ruby's Kid's Bingo Challenge.

4. Make Time For Reading

Set a specific time to read in your daily schedule. Children will get into the habit of reading and hopefully won't have to be asked to read because it will be a part of their routine. To set a good example for children in the home, reading time can be for the family. Children and adults read their book of choice and discuss. This is an opportunity for parents to model good reading habits.

5. Read With Purpose

Show children how reading is not just for pleasure, but for purpose, too. Recipes, directions, mail, church announcements, let your child read them. When they have questions have them look them up online or in a book. Before attempting to assist them, encourage them to read to solve their problems.

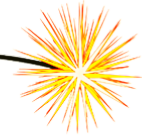
6. Talk About It

Let your child share their thoughts on what they read -good or bad. This will help to increase positive verbal interactions with your child and help you better understand their interests.

Miss Ruby's Kids in partnership with Georgetown County School District thanks you for participating in this literacy initiative. We are providing digital and online reading resources to ensure that your children are continually enjoying the love of reading from home. Please see the links below to enjoy FREE children's books, young adult novels, and exciting resources.

Online Literacy Resources

All resources hyperlinked! Just click to be directed to the website.



Epic

Epic is the leading digital reading platform—built on a collection of 40,000+ popular, high-quality books from 250+ of the world's best publishers—that safely fuels curiosity and reading confidence for kids 12 and under.

Raz-Kids

The award-winning website where K-5 students go to read — anytime, anywhere!

Starfall

The program emphasizes exploration, play, and positive reinforcement—encouraging children to become confident and intrinsically motivated.

Storyline Online

Storyline Online is available 24 hours a day for children, parents, caregivers and educators worldwide. Each book includes supplemental curriculum developed by a credentialed elementary educator, aiming to strengthen comprehension and verbal and written skills for English-language learners.

Unite for Literacy

Unite for Literacy has developed the platform, publishing tools, and systems-based strategies that support our public and private sector partners to change the literacy landscape of their communities and optimize the future for all their young children.

Wit and Wisdom

Wit & Wisdom provides a framework for inquiry that helps students build rich layers of knowledge—wherever learning takes place.

CommonLit

CommonLit is a nonprofit education technology organization dedicated to ensuring that all students, especially students in Title I schools, graduate with the reading, writing, communication, and problem-solving skills they need to be successful in college and beyond.

Newsela

Engage every learner with thousands of real-world texts that feature diverse perspectives and people all students can identify with.