

# Improve your child's reading skills by reading yourself!

A parent's example always teaches a powerful lesson. You can't teach your child honesty if you don't tell the truth. You can't teach your child to eat healthy food if you never eat fruits or vegetables.

The same is true with reading. If you want your child to be a good reader, demonstrate reading habits that give the right impression.

You can:

- Show your child how you read for information. Say, "I'm trying to figure out how to use a new computer program for work. This article explains how it works."
- Read for a purpose. Do you take the bus in the morning? Show your child how you use the bus schedule to see when to leave the house. Are you looking for a new recipe for dinner? Show him how you search online or flip through cookbooks to find one to try.
- Read for pleasure. When your child sees you reading just to relax, he will realize that reading isn't just for school or work.
- Share something you're reading. If there's an interesting story in the paper, read some of it aloud. Print or cut out an article you think your child will enjoy and leave it on his bed. Your child will see that reading is something that is fun to share.
- Take your child with you when you go to the library. Show him how rewarding it can be to browse titles and discover a great book.
- Bring something to read with you everywhere you go. Your child will see that reading is a constructive way to pass the time.

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