

Make reading a priority for your elementary schooler

Ask any educator to name the single most important thing parents can do at home to help children learn and do well in school and they will likely say, “Encourage your child to read!”

Here are some ways to make reading a priority for your family:

- Read together. Your child may enjoy reading to you or taking turns reading chapters aloud.
- Go to the public library. Help your child sign up for a library card. Each week, have him browse and check out new books.
- Offer suggestions. Think about your child’s interests. Find books or articles about them. Ask the librarian for help.
- Start a family book club. It doesn’t have to be formal. Just set aside one night each week to talk about something you’ve all read. Better yet, do it during dinner—you’ll get the benefit of each other’s company and a good discussion.
- Create a reading nook. Some kids love to read anywhere. But a cozy reading spot can make reading more appealing.
- Suggest a series. When there are several books about a character they like, kids may keep reading, book after book.
- Let your child see you reading. If your child sees you with your nose in a book, he’ll be more likely to want to read himself. Be sure to talk to him about what you’re reading: “I just read the strangest story in the newspaper.”
- Talk with the teacher. Ask about your child’s reading progress and suggestions for improvement.

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