

Fun ways to encourage your children to read



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**Cooperative Extension
Education Resource**

By: The University of Illinois Cooperative Extension

Reading is the key that unlocks a whole world of information. Parents are teachers; they can set an example by reading to their children every day. Listen to what your children have to say and answer their questions and read aloud to your children everyday. There are many fun activities that you can do with your children to encourage them to read. Try a few of these:

ABC Book – Use the blank side of old papers. Write one upper and lower case letter (A, a) on each page. Have the children look at the letters and help them sound out the letter. This book can be stapled or placed in a notebook. Use this book to go on a ‘letter hunt’ in books, newspapers, or magazines.

The Match Game – Create a game by drawing duplicate shapes, patterns, letters, or words on cards and have the child match the cards.

Create a Story – Make up stories with your children. Take turns between parent and child and add lines to the story. Use familiar people, places, or names to keep it fun and interesting.

Repetition – Read books more than once. After your child is familiar with a story, ask them to fill in the blanks when you pause. Then have your child tell the story to you. Encourage him or her to read the story to others, even his or her pets or stuffed animals.

Safety Walk – Take your children on a walk around the neighborhood or to a park. Point out signs and identify the letters and numbers, then read what is on the signs. (House numbers, stop sign, and street names or business names). Have children name the pieces of play equipment at the park. This game can be adapted and used when traveling.

Time spent together with your children is important. Make reading a fun activity and your child will be learning without any pressure or stress. There isn't a much more worthwhile activity than pre-reading fun and reading – they are setting the foundation for learning.

