

Ten Ways to Make Sure Your Kids Live in a Reading Environment

1. Read yourself. Talk about reading. Buy a magazine at the grocery store. Get a book about a favorite hobby. Say things like: "Oh, I just read the most interesting thing in that magazine." Leave the magazine and book out so your kids see them. At school, have a book or magazine on your desk.
2. Insist on reading directions and recipes. "O.K. before we start baking cookies, we need to read the recipe."
3. Read stories to your kids. Make it a habit. Read something to them every night before bed. Read stories at school.
4. Get books for your kids that are tied to their interest. Make sure you've got books in your classroom tied to a variety of interests and at a lower grade level for those kids who aren't up to grade level. Our grandson Caleb hates to read. He loves football. We found a football book at his grade level. He loved it.
5. Make sure there's a "quiet" place in the house where kids can read. A reading corner in the classroom.
6. Look for toys that come with books. The American Girl dolls have matching books, for example.
7. Take the kids to the library for fun. Be sure to check out a book for yourself so kids see that you think the library is fun too. Make sure kids have library time at school.
8. Go to the bookstore. Let your kids pick out a book while you're off somewhere else in the store picking out a book or magazine for yourself.
9. Assume your kids can read and ask them to do it. Let them know that reading is an everyday activity. Ask them to read the directions on a cake mix box for you. Tell you what's listed in the TV Guide for 7:00 pm.
10. Better yet. Turn off the TV.