Tips for Families to Create Successful Readers

Choose a Quiet Time and Place

Set aside a quiet time with little to no distractions—even ten to fifteen minutes is a great place to start, add time as you can. Find a comfortable place to sit together. Make reading a special activity for you and your child.

Help Your Child Select Books

Consider titles that are appropriate based on their interests and reading ability. Want some help in learning how to do this? Refer to RIF’s Guide for Choosing Good Books for Children of All Ages, or one of the many resources listed there.

Make Reading Interactive

Read using voices that are interesting and playful. Talk with your child and encourage them to make connections to their own experiences or real world. Allow time for you and your child to ask questions, make observations, and enjoy the text.

Expand Language and Vocabulary

Encourage your child to point to pictures that match the words being read, as well as read aloud familiar words. Explain new words and direct your child's attention to certain pictures, to provide details and meaning.

Build Reading Stamina

Reread familiar books with your child. Rereading provides a sense of satisfaction and success. Once your child is reading at a particular leading level, they need to read many books at that level, allowing them to practice and develop the ability to continue reading for longer periods of time.