

What can I do to create literacy routines for my family?

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Just like brushing teeth and picking up toys, you want literacy activities to be part of your child's daily routine. However, building a joy and love of reading requires a slightly different approach than reminding your child to do their chores. Studies have shown that children who have a strong literacy routine at home are more likely to read for pleasure and read above grade level later in life. A few simple steps can go a long way in helping your whole family find joy in reading.

TIP: Read together at least once a day

-  Many families choose to read as part of their bedtime routine, which makes it feel special and can help kids calm down.
-  Suggest reading outside of your normal routine too. Use reading a book as a tool to calm a tantrum, ease boredom, or offer a transition between activities.
-  If possible, make library visits part of your routine. Visiting weekly or biweekly is a great (free!) way to keep a variety of books in your home. It's also a wonderful way to show your child that reading is part of other people's lives too.

TIP: Make literacy materials easily accessible

-  Have books in lots of different places in your house, and make sure your child can get to them without help. Rotate new books in often so that the novelty adds some excitement.
-  Keep paper and crayons handy. Encouraging your child to tell stories through art and writing is an awesome way to develop literacy awareness.

TIP: Set an example

-  Read for pleasure in front of your child. Show them with your actions that reading is for everyone, not just kids. Talk about what you're reading and what you like about it too.
-  Talk to your child about what they are reading or what you read together. Ask their opinion, offer to help them learn more about a topic, write to the author, or look up similar books. Making your littler reader feel heard will help them understand that they have ownership over their reading journey.