



Easy Things You Can Do At Home to Raise Readers...

- Read to your child every day. Make it a special time when you both can relax, snuggle and enjoy books.
- Build a home library and fill it with your child's favorite titles.
- Sing nursery rhymes and finger plays to introduce an awareness of speech sounds and patterns.
- Visit your local library on a regular basis and borrow a wide range of books and audio materials. Take part in activities the library provides for young children.
- Use words to describe aloud what you are doing or what you see around your house and community.
- Learning depends on repetition. It is good when children ask for favorites to be read again and again.
- Encourage your child to "read" picture books to you.
- Be a good role model by reading for enjoyment and information yourself.
- When reading aloud, use lots of expression, different voices and sound effects when appropriate.
- Read books that play with language such as poetry, tongue twisters, rhymes, and riddles.

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And Raise Writers...

- Be sure your child has different types of writing implements such as pencils, crayons, markers and lots of paper to use them on.
- Encourage your child to tell you stories. Write them down and have your child illustrate them.
- Create labels so your child can match them to objects throughout your home.
- Before you go to the grocery store write a shopping list together. Have your child cross items off the list after you select them.
- Create scrapbooks about your family, special occasions, and trips.
- Keep a journal with your child and have him/her summarize what happens each day while you write it down.
- When you are writing notes or emailing, ask your child what he/she would like you to tell a relative or friend.
- Write a list as your child dictates to you. It could be a wish list, a to do list, etc
- Encourage print recognition in everyday situations such as street signs and local businesses.
- After a trip to a park, zoo, or other special place have your child dictate what you did, what you saw as you write it down. Have your child add pictures to complete the story.

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