

Idea Sheet for “Kids Who Read Are COOL!”

by Brian Richards

During Brian’s presentation he touched on the following 3 main points...

KIDS WHO READ “R” COOL....how can you make reading more fun for your kids? Below are some great ideas from RIF (Reading is Fundamental www.rif.org). What ideas can you come up with to make the process of reading more rewarding for your kids??

READING EXPANDS YOUR IMAGINATION...What other interests does your child have? Are there books at your local library that could fuel those interests into passions? Talk with your child about the books they love and ask questions about things they want to know more about.

THE MORE YOU READ, THE MORE YOU KNOW...not much more I can add but really encourage your kids to spend at least 30 minutes a day reading (take 30 minutes away from the TV or video games). **And don’t forget to teach by example, if your kids see you enjoying a good book they will be more likely to follow your lead!!**

18 tips to turn any child into a reading CHAMP!

1. Scout for things your children might like to read. Use their interests and hobbies as starting points.
2. Leave all sorts of reading materials including books, magazines, and colorful catalogs in conspicuous places around your home.
3. Notice what attracts your children's attention, even if they only look at the pictures. Then build on that interest.
4. Take your children to the library regularly. Explore the children's section together.
5. Present reading as an activity with a purpose; a way to gather useful information for, say, making paper airplanes, identifying a doll or stamp in your child's collection, or planning a family trip.
6. Encourage older children to read to their younger brothers and sisters.
7. Play games that are reading-related.
8. Perhaps over dinner, while you're running errands, or in another informal setting, share your reactions to things you read, and encourage your children to do likewise.
9. Read aloud to your child, especially a child who is discouraged by his or her own poor reading skills. The pleasure of listening to you read, rather than struggling alone, may restore your child's initial enthusiasm for books and reading.
10. Encourage your child to read aloud to you an exciting passage in a book, an interesting tidbit in the newspaper, or a joke in a joke book. When children read aloud, don't feel they have to get every word right. Even good readers skip or mispronounce words now and then.
11. On gift-giving occasions, give books and magazines based on your child's current interests.
12. Set aside a special place for children to keep their own books.
13. Introduce the bookmark. Remind your youngster that you don't have to finish a book in one sitting. Don't try to persuade your child to finish a book he or she doesn't like. Recommend putting the book aside and trying another.
14. Treat your children to an evening of laughter and entertainment featuring books! A joke book, a story told in riddles, or a funny passage read aloud can reveal another side of reading.
15. Extend your child's positive reading experiences. For example, if your youngster enjoyed a book about dinosaurs, follow up with a visit to a natural history museum.
16. Offer other special incentives to encourage your child's reading. Allow your youngster to stay up an extra 15 minutes to finish a chapter; promise to take your child to see a movie after he or she has finished the book on which it was based; relieve your child of a regular chore to free up time for reading.
17. Limit your children's TV viewing in an effort to make time for other activities, such as reading. But never use TV as a reward for reading, or a punishment for not reading.
18. Not all reading takes place between the covers of a book. What about menus, road signs, food labels, and sheet music? Take advantage of countless spur-of-the-moment opportunities for reading during the course of your family's busy day.

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