



Written by:

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# 10 tips

for growing a love

# of ReADiNG

## *Listen to Language*

Pay attention to the language your child uses. If they express difficulty or frustration with reading, listen empathetically. Acknowledge their feelings and provide support to address their concerns. Talk about your reading journey and share mistakes, successes and struggles when you learned to read. If your child says “I can’t read” try reframing it to “I can’t read yet.”

## *Emphasize Progress Over Perfection*

Reinforce the idea that reading is about making progress, not achieving perfection. Encourage a growth mindset by noticing their efforts and highlighting the improvements they make over time.

## *Meet Them Where They Are*

Tailor your approach to your child’s interests and abilities. Choose materials that align with their hobbies or favourite topics. Meeting them at their current level ensures a more enjoyable and rewarding reading experience.



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## *Celebrate Small Achievements*

Notice and celebrate their improvements. Offer specific feedback to boost their confidence and motivation such as “I noticed you worked really hard to sound out that word.”

## *Build off Success*

Pick one learning word for new readers (e.g., and, the). You can read the page while following the text with your finger. When you get to the learning word, encourage your child to read the word out loud. Continue reading, stopping each time for your child to practice the learning word as it appears. Next time you read the book, try 2 words.

## *Express Enjoyment*

Let your child know that you enjoy reading together. Express gratitude by saying, “Thank you for letting me read with you; I really enjoyed it.” Or “That was interesting, I learned some cool facts about dinosaurs, thank you for sharing this book with me.” Your enthusiasm can positively influence their perception of reading.

## *Create a Positive Reading Environment*

Foster a positive atmosphere around reading. Ensure the reading space is comfortable and free from distractions. A positive environment enhances the overall reading experience.



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## *Try Reading in New Places*

Break the routine of reading only at bedtime (when they and you may be too tired). Set up a tent in the backyard for outdoor reading adventures, read in a blanket fort, or have a “reading picnic” in the living room. Changing the reading environment adds excitement and novelty to the experience.

## *Make Reading Fun*

Bring stories to life by assigning different wacky voices to characters. From pirate accents to robot beeps, let you and your child explore their inner voice actor. And don't overlook your role in the process. You are often more interesting to read with than the content in the book.

## *Make Reading Accessible*

There is lots of reading to do at the grocery store and some parks and nature reserves have signs that detail animals, plants and vegetation. They can even read their favourite cereal box! When you show interest in reading different things, they may too!

**Remember, every child is unique, so be flexible and adjust these tips to suit your child's individual preferences and needs.**