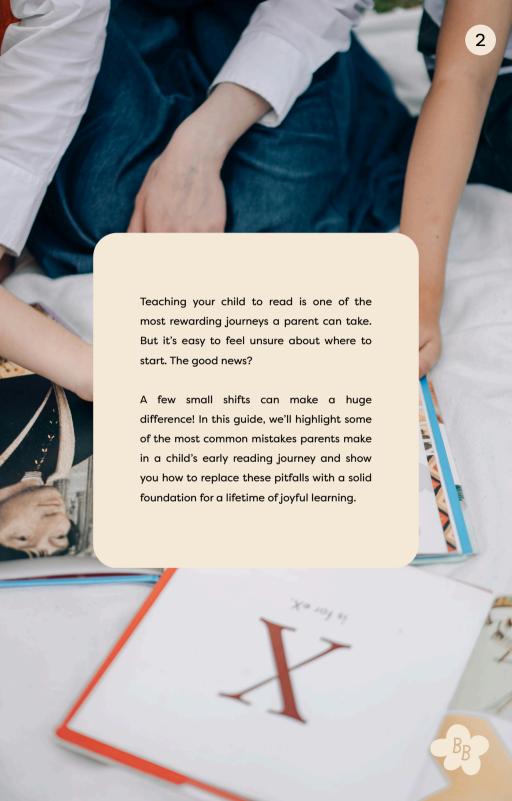


And How to Avoid Them





We're Going on a Bear Hunt

Expecting Quick Success Without Adequate Preparation

### The Mistake:

Children are primed for reading success when they've been given the opportunity to build pre-reading skills before officially learning to read. Expecting a child to learn to read without adequate preparation is like expecting a smooth coat of paint without first sanding the rough wood.



Expecting Quick Success Without Adequate Preparation



#### How to Avoid It:

Start building pre-reading skills early. Help your child recognize beginning sounds, expose them to a wide range of read-alouds, and encourage storytelling. Display text around your home in easy-to-see places. Develop pre-reading skills now by trying one of these simple activities together today:

- ractice spelling your child's name aloud
- Sing the alphabet song while washing hands
- \* Clap the syllables in five different words
- $\star\!\!\!\!\star$  Hang up a few quotes, poems or an alphabet chart
- Create a silly rhyme



04.

Forgetting to Make Reading Fun

# The Mistake:

When a child associates reading with excitement and joy, they're more likely to develop a lifelong love for it. However, if reading feels like a forced chore or becomes too focused on outcomes, kids can lose interest and confidence.



Forgetting to Make Reading Fun

### How to Avoid It:

Help your child associate reading with happiness by creating plenty of joyful reading experiences. Build as many warm memories around reading as possible, and when it's time to teach them how to read, be sure to choose a program that's both fun and effective. Try these ideas:

- \* Read books under a sheet fort
- \* Play a letter-matching card game
- \* Lead a round of letter-sound I-Spy
- Play 'Guess That Word' by giving sound clues
- \* Head outside for a game of letter-sound hopscotch



Failing to Develop a Reading Culture

## The Mistake:

For a child, learning to read feels like a natural part of development when it's been built into daily life from the very start. On the other hand, failing to create a reading-rich environment at home can make learning to read feel foreign or challenging.



How to Avoid It:

Make reading a core part of your family culture. Read aloud every day, surround your child with an abundance of books, and engage in conversations about stories. Find natural ways to incorporate the following:

- Develop a consistent read-aloud habit
- \* Take regular trips to the library
- \* Participate in local Storytime events
- Join reading challenges

Failing to

Culture

Give your child books as gifts



Not Making Books Easily Accessible

### The Mistake:

One of the best things you can do to raise a reader is to make books readily available. When books are out of reach, stored away, or only brought out at certain times, children miss out on opportunities to engage with them naturally and develop a positive relationship with reading.





Not Making Books Easily Accessible

#### How to Avoid It:

Fill your home with books! They don't need to be brand-new – library books, thrifted finds, and hand-me-downs work just as well. Make books easy for your child to reach and explore by trying these strategies:

- \* Keep book storage low and open
- \* Arrange books with the cover facing out
- Incorporate books into play spaces
- \* Make yourself available to read aloud consistently
- \* Allow autonomy, and exploration when it comes to the child's book choices



01.

Waiting for School to Teach Your Child

### The Mistake:

With the statistics of reading proficiency in American children being massively disappointing (and honestly, a little scary), there are no guarantees that school alone will teach your child to read effectively. Reading impacts all subjects, making it crucial for overall academic success. Learning how to read well is too important to leave to chance.



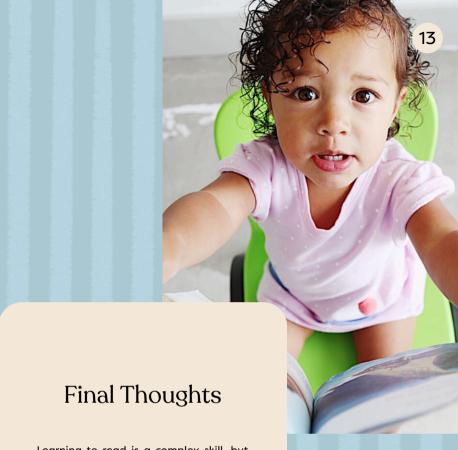
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Waiting for School to Teach Your Child

### How to Avoid It:

Take an active role in teaching your child to read. Start early – talk, sing and read with them from birth. Use rich vocabulary, and when they show readiness, guide them through the learning-to-read process yourself.

- Introduce letter sounds gradually as soon as they show ready signs
- Once they know 3-4 letters, begin blending vowelconsonant (VC) words (e.g., "am," "at") then move to consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) words (e.g., "mat," "sat").
- Encourage daily reading with simple decodable books for 5-10 minutes.
- Incorporate tracing and writing practice, then sound out words and write them
- \* Continue reading aloud every day



Learning to read is a complex skill, but your child's reading journey can be easily nurtured and seamlessly woven into your daily routine. Bright & Brilliant is here to support you on your journey! Find helpful resources, tips, book recommendations and more on our social media and blog.

# Need Support Teaching Your Child To Read?

We've got you covered! Stay tuned for our Parent-Child Learn-to-Read Curriculum coming summer of 2025! This open-and-go system walks you step by step through the learn-to-read process, in just twenty minutes per day – zero prep required. With games, songs and interactive activities, learning feels like connection-driven play while guiding your child to reading fluency. We can't wait to support you in raising a confident, fluent reader and be a part of your family's joyful reading journey.

