



# BUILDING READERS

*How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers*

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## Reading for pleasure can improve your child's language and literacy skills

When your child enjoys reading and does it often, he boosts his vocabulary and reading skills. To increase his interest in reading:

- **Suggest books you enjoyed** when you were young. Search for some of your favorite authors or books at the library with your child.
- **Make opportunities for your child** to read with friends. Encourage them to discuss books they enjoy. They may consider starting a book club.
- **Keep a supply of books** and magazines on subjects that interest your child available all around your home.
- **Connect books and food.** Create a reading café at home. Bake a favorite dessert and make some hot chocolate. Then, settle in with your child and spend some time reading.

Source: "Leisure Reading," *International Reading Association*, [niswc.com/leisure\\_reading\\_benefits](http://niswc.com/leisure_reading_benefits).



***"Reading is like an infectious disease: it is caught not taught."*** —Christine Nuttall

## Encourage frequent writing

Reading and writing go hand in hand, so it's important to encourage your child to write. When your child is writing, make sure you:

- Wait until she has tried to fix the errors in her writing before you offer to help.

- Encourage her to share what she has written with other family members.
- Save what she has written and find ways to display her work.



Source: "Second and Third Graders Writing Milestones," *PBSkids*, [niswc.com/encourage\\_writing](http://niswc.com/encourage_writing).

## Explore nonfiction with your child

To achieve in school, your child will have to be able to read, understand and enjoy many types of books, including nonfiction.

Reading nonfiction helps your child:

- **Apply comprehension skills** to factual content.
- **Develop new hobbies** or interests.
- **Learn how authors** use text to inform and persuade their readers.

Source: M. Lee, "Enthralling Nonfiction for Early Readers," *education.com*, [niswc.com/reading\\_nonfiction\\_books](http://niswc.com/reading_nonfiction_books)



## Persevere through reading challenges

Reading is part of many home and school activities, so if your child struggles with it, it can feel as if it affects every part of her life. Her self-esteem can suffer.

To support your child:

- **Consult her teacher.** Ask about realistic expectations. What does your child's teacher notice in class? What strategies have been taught and how can you apply them at home? What additional help is available?
- **Use reading materials at home** that minimize frustration. Choose books that are easy for your child to read and understand. This builds her confidence while she is reading.
- **Stay positive about her learning.** Focus on how her strengths can help. And remember to praise your child often for her hard work. Source: "Helping Children Overcome Reading Difficulties," *Child Development Institute*, [niswc.com/helpingreading\\_difficulties](http://niswc.com/helpingreading_difficulties).

