



HOW TO READ AS A FAMILY

a guide

Life is busy, and sometimes sitting down to read as a family seems just short of impossible. However, with a little creativity, intentionality, and consideration for the confines of your week and even the walls of your home, you can be a family of readers. But why go out of your way to make reading a part of your everyday family life?

Books change the way we think and view the world. Reading together is a great opportunity to step away from technology and spend some time unified as a family, having real conversations about real-life issues. Reading is also the top marker in future academic success for kids. Reading is a worthwhile endeavor with your family, so here are some practical ways to integrate it into the life of your family.

10 WAYS TO CULTIVATE A LOVE FOR READING IN YOUR FAMILY:

1. Surround your family with good books.

Place them in every room of your home so that they are visible and accessible and are great reminders to you and your kids to pick them up.

2. Never leave your house without a good book.

There should be books in your purse, overflowing from the flaps on the back of the car chairs, and a few hidden in the trunk for backup - just in case that visit to the doctor or the grocery store becomes hard to manage.

3. Start small.

Start with 15-20 minutes of reading every day. If you have young kids, read to them at bedtime (not just preschoolers, you can read chapter books out loud as well), and if you have older kids, read in the same room together after dinner. Put it on your calendar and commit to making it happen. It might mean one less show and a little more effort, but it's worth it.

4. Listen to audiobooks in the car.

Helping kids love stories will help kids love books, and it will remind you of the adventure and joy that comes from diving into a world not your own with characters who become your good friends.

5. Tell stories as you drive from place to place.

While driving kids home from school every day, we make up a story to tell them. Even as toddlers, they are retaining the details of these stories much more successfully than other information, and they light up when we ask them questions from past stories. Again, a love for stories will cultivate a love for books (and give them a fantastic imagination that will help with problem-solving later in life).





6. Talk about what you are reading.

Tell kids what you are learning from what you read and about the stories you love now and the ones you loved when you were a kid.

7. Read a story at dinner.

If you are super short on time, find a 5-minute stories book and read a single story at dinner each night.

8. Track what each member of your family has read each year.

Post an empty bookshelf printout on the wall for each person and let kids draw in a book and write in the title on the spine when they finish a book. It may also result in some fun, friendly competition.

9. Go to the library and the local book store often.

There's nothing more exciting than walking into a building full of books, knowing you can take any one that you want home with you. LifeWay Stores also offer story time, as do lots of libraries, so do a little research and get these fun events on your calendar.

10. Let kids choose a new book when they deserve a reward.

Good behavior? Good grades? Finished all your chores this month? You get a book!

