10 Tips for Raising a Reader

Reading for pleasure is the easiest way to become a good reader.
Good readers are more successful in school and later in life.
Below are some useful tips to help raise a reader.

1. Read to your baby starting at birth and continue to read aloud to them even after they know how to read. Shared reading is a great way to spend time together.

2. Make reading a natural part of your daily routine and read together 15-30 minutes a day. If your child is not in the mood to read, stop and finish the story later. While you read, let your child turn the pages and talk about the book.

3. Talk with your child as you play and do daily activities. Point out letters and printed words in your home and in the community. Listen to your child and encourage them to tell you about their day and what they are doing.

4. Read favorite books again and again. Children like familiarity and will often request their favorite book many times. To increase variety, introduce another book on the same subject or by the same author or illustrator.

5. Be creative and read with expression! Show the pictures. Use wordless books and make up your own story.

6. Turn off the TV and radio to eliminate distractions while you read. Limit the amount of time your children watch TV. Studies show that some daily TV is okay, but too much TV watching is linked to poor school performance.

7. Have a variety of reading materials available including books, magazines and news papers. Carry reading materials with you so you have something to read as you wait in a doctor's office, the bus stop, the line at the grocery store, and anywhere.

8. Share Mother Goose rhymes and poetry with your children. Sing songs and make up silly word games. Children enjoy playing with the sounds of words and this develops their phonological awareness.

9. Introduce a wide variety of vocabulary words with your children. Explain the meaning of unfamiliar words so children gain an understanding of new and inter esting words.

10. Visit one of your neighborhood Milwaukee Public Libraries. There are 12 libraries and the Central Library. Get a library card to use at any location, check out books, use computers and more---all FREE.

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