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READING TIPS & FACTS FOR PARENTS

Always have books. Go to the library or bookstore with your children and help them choose their own books.

Listen to audio books when traveling long distances by car. Don't forget to take breaks to discuss what you've heard, and listen to your children.

Start early. When you read out loud to young children, they learn the words and sounds they will need to read themselves.

Set an example. Children copy what they see. Seeing you read a book or newspaper will give them the idea reading is important.

Make a time and place for reading with your child. Many parents find that bedtime is ideal. Your child calms down and drifts off to sleep more readily, too.

Don't stop reading to your children when they learn to read themselves. This is your special time together.

Read together. That makes kids feel special, and young children can follow the words as you read.

Make it fun. For instance, ask the kids to create different voices for characters in the stories you read to them or ask them what they think different characters in the book look like.

Remember how important it is. Studies show that kids who read just 15 minutes a day see an average of more than a million words a year. Reading with your children every day is the most important thing you can do to help them succeed in school and in life.

Help your child become an active reader. As you read together, share ideas and ask questions: What do you think will happen next? Share what you think about the story. Talking with your children will help them build the listening and speaking skills they need to become good readers.

Studies show that the number of reading materials in the home has declined over the last 20 years. In addition, children who grow up in nonreading households are likely to be nonreaders.

Parents involved in their children's reading find more favorable family interaction leading to extended benefits for the child. By reading just a few pages a day, a child will improve comprehension, spelling, and vocabulary skills.

Studies show there is no substitute for parents' reading with their children.

In this age of television and the computer Americans, especially children, are reading less than ever before.