How to Encourage Your Children To Love Reading
As a child, I loved to read. I spent hours immersed in a good book that took me on many adventures to different parts of the world. However, my son is somewhat different. It has really been a struggle to get him to read his assigned books much less read for pleasure. Thus, over the past few weeks, we’ve been trying out some different tactics to encourage him to read. Of course, we have implemented the conventional way of taking away privileges if he does not do his assigned reading. However, we also wanted to find ways to make extracurricular reading fun as well.
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Reading is Not Just a Recreational Activity

Why is it important that your children love to read? We can answer that question by reviewing various research studies looking at how reading impacts children’s development and mental growth, and prepares them for the future.
Research Findings

The Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development conducted research that suggests; reading enjoyment is more important for children’s educational success than their family’s socio-economic status. Therefore, the following question arises; What steps are we taking to turn reading into something that our kids not only enjoy, but will prefer over television and video games? The answer is quite simple, let’s create ways to make reading fun!
Discover what they love!

My first step to encourage my son to read more was to give him all the books I loved as a child. Titles such as *Little Pilgrim’s Progress* and *The Rats of Nihm*, made me fall in love with reading, and I fully expected they would do the same for my son. However, once he started to read, he struggled through a couple of pages and then gave up all together, claiming that he hated reading and it was too boring for him. I quickly realized that what worked for me may not have worked for my son and let him choose the books that interested him the most. Once he made his choice, it was hard to pull him away from reading. He was immersed in the story and I knew that my tactic had worked.
Hit the Library

My next suggestion on how to encourage your children to love reading is to take them to a library. This may sound quite unconventional for some people, since we live in a world surrounded by technology, and information which is available to us at our finger tips. However, it is much easier to get your children excited about reading when they have endless possibilities and feel the freedom to choose their own books. This practice encourages children to make their own decisions and become more independent. Libraries endless variety of books prevent parents from forcing their kids to finish certain books only because they spent money on it, helps children to avoid reading burnout and keeps them excited about reading new books.
Get Digital

Over the last 30 years, technology has revolutionized the way we lead our lives on a daily basis, therefore why not use technology to encourage our children to love to read. Of course, there is a concern of blurring the line between reading and computer time. However, with the right device and software that blurred line will never be crossed. Tablets are now created especially for children that are more durable and contain fun, educational software which allows children to pick up on reading essentials, while playing fun and interactive games.
I always encourage parents to engage in the lives of their children as much as possible, and reading with them is no exception. Create a book club with your child where you can discuss important parts of the book, such as parts where your child got confused, or most excited. Your willingness to take time and engage in a discussion about the book will encourage your child to continue reading. Ask your child what, in their opinion, will be the ending of the book? This question arouses natural curiosity, inspires kids to read further and check if their assumptions were correct. You will be pleasantly surprised when your kiddo will pass on a cartoon to continue reading.
Know When to Push and When to Stop

As a parent, it is important to understand the reasons behind your child’s unwillingness to read. Once your child chooses a book and starts to read, there are no guarantees he or she will like the book later on. Resistance to read can be explained by a simple dislike for the story. Pushing your child to read a story they do not like will create a negative outlook to reading all together. Once your child voices his or her dislike for the book, ask them to read 5 more pages before switching books. Such a practice will allow your little reader to pass through a difficult or confusing part of the book and keep on reading.
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How Do You Encourage Your Child To Read

It is difficult to engage your children in activities they do not enjoy, especially when that activity is reading. In situations such as that, parental involvement is a must. First, be ready to dedicate your time to help inspire your children, build a strong foundation and understanding for reading. Second, find books that will correspond with your child’s interest. Third, and probably most important, be patient, since a love for reading is often developed over time.