



ENCOURAGE READING WITH YOUR CHILDREN

A report published Monday Dec. 12, 2011, finds that fewer Ontario children are reading for pleasure. The report, published by research group People for Education, shows the number of Ontario Grade 3 students who say they like to read dropped from 75 per cent in 1998-99 to 50 per cent in 2010-11.

Want to encourage your child to read on a regular basis? Beginning readers and reluctant readers alike will benefit from these strategies!

Try some of these ideas and see what happens.

- 1. Make a habit of reading to your child every day, whether she or he is a one-year-old or a 10-year-old.
- 2. When your child is able to, have him or her read to you. You can take turns reading chapters in a simple chapter book, for example.
- 3. Get a library card for your child, go to the library every week and take out several books. Gallanough has a family membership for a yearly fee of \$12.00, which allows you to take out 40 books and 4 DVDs at one time.
- 4. Be aware of your child's interests and direct your child to related books. Ask a librarian for ideas.
- 5. A librarian can help you find a series that your child really likes and will want to continue reading.
- 6. Provide a comfortable reading area, with good lighting, in your home. Gallanough has a comfortable, quiet area where you can read to your child.
- 7. Gallanough offers two Storytimes, which are free for members. Go to our website for more information at www.gallanough.com
- 8. Discuss books with your child.

- 9. Buy books for your child that are related to his or her special interests.
- 10. If your child is a reluctant reader and not reading on grade level, Gallanough has almost 1300 Easy Read books with 4 levels of reading difficulty from easy to chapter books and phonetics.
- 11. Talk to your child's teacher and ask for suggestions.
- 12. If your child likes incentives and the computer, enroll in an online book group or register for Gallanough's Summer Reading Program, <u>Catch the Reading Bug</u> for JK to Grade 8.
- 13. If your child really enjoys a particular author, check with Gallanough's librarian about other authors or books he or she might enjoy.
- 14. Gallanough has children's magazines such as Owl, Chirp and National Geographic for Kids.
- 15. Stay on the side of encouraging rather than nagging if you want your child to read. Nothing puts a child off faster than feeling forced to read, so be careful.
- 16. Make reading a priority by reading to your child daily.
- 17. Visiting the library daily and other encouragement must be consistent.
- 18. Read a book from which a popular movie has been made like Harry Potter or Marley & Me. Have everyone in the family read the same book and discuss it with your children.
- 19. Take advantage of "waiting" time to share books on trips, at appointments and in line. Have books everywhere (in the car, in front of the TV, in the kitchen and on the porch.
- 20. Keep a list on the refrigerator of the books everyone has read during the summer.
- 21. If you have questions or need more information call the Gallanough Resource Centre at 905-881-2828.
- 22. Gallanough has a large collection of books and CDs. You can play a CD and your child can follow along. For example:

A Trip to the Zoo / A Trip to the Library by Karen Wallace

23. Suggested reading for parents:

Raising Kids Who Read by Carolyn Benson

Any Child Can Read Better by Harvey Wiener

Creative Reading: You Can Be a Free Reader by Philly Murtha

Reading Fast: You Can Be a Reading Athlete by Philly Murtha

Library: Your Teammate by Philly Murtha

Additional Information: Gallanough Web Site

People For Education Web Site