

7 Ways to Promote Reading and Writing Skills

Help kids continue to develop their reading and writing skills. Consider these activities to engage your kids in ways that could help them with reading and writing.

- 1. Read as a family:** With your kids, create a family reading calendar by taking a blank calendar month template you can make or get online and writing book titles in whatever days the family will read together, and noting the times. Ask your kids what prominent location in the house they can pick to display the calendar. Have your kids choose a book the family can read aloud to each other.
- 2. Start a book club:** Celebrate literacy through group activities. Organize a children's book club with your kids' school or neighborhood friends. Help readers pick out books and read them aloud to the group. Ask kids if they would like to act out scenes from any books read.
- 3. Get moving, with a trip to a library or book fair:** Find a local public library or book fair, and, if nearby, walk with your kids and help them pick out books they find of interest.
- 4. Write a story:** Try boosting your children's creativity by helping them author their own book. Have your kids write their own piece, reflecting on past experiences, thinking of future goals, or just using their imagination. After writing the story, see if your kids would like to illustrate the pages with crayons or markers. Then help them bind their book with twine or ribbons. See if they'd like to use it in the future as a storybook that they can read to siblings or friends.
- 5. Learn online:** See if your kids are interested in playing games online that can strengthen reading and writing skills. Or maybe they would like to explore sites that focus on spelling, vocabulary, and storytelling. For older kids, word jumbles can be fun. Or try reading a book online.
- 6. Make a bookmark:** Get together with your kids and make a bookmark for friends or family. Ask your kids what they think would be great content for the bookmark—maybe they would like to draw a character or scene from a favorite story or possibly write an original brief poem with related drawings.
- 7. Cook with a favorite book in mind:** See if your kids can think of a food-themed story and make it the basis of a dish or meal. Maybe they would like to make some eggs and ham, alphabet soup, meatballs, or gingerbread.



Source: U.S. Department of Education

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