



There's no doubt about it — you can create a home that supports your children as they become readers — learning to read, reading to learn, and reading for sheer pleasure.



Two very effective ways of helping your children become readers:

### Read aloud to your children.

Make this a regular habit beginning when they are babies, and keep reading aloud even after they can read on their own. Children whose parents read aloud to them are much more likely to find success in learning to read, and in becoming effective readers.

### Converse with your children.

Help them to make connections and build deeper understanding of the world around them.

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Neither of these ideas costs anything when families use the public library, yet they give children an incredible boost as they become readers.

## LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES

Lincoln, Nebraska  
www.lcl.lib.ne.us

BENNETT MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
136 South 14th Street \* 441-8500  
Youth Services  
441-8566

VICTOR E. ANDERSON BRANCH  
3635 Touzalin Avenue \* 441-8540

ARNOLD HEIGHTS BRANCH  
3815 NW 54th Street \* 441-8580

BETHANY BRANCH  
1810 North Cotner Boulevard \* 441-8550

LOREN COREY EISELEY BRANCH  
1530 Superior Street \* 441-4250

CHARLES H. GERE BRANCH  
2400 South 56th Street \* 441-8560

SOUTH BRANCH  
2675 South Street \* 441-8570

BESS DODSON WALT BRANCH  
6701 South 14th Street \* 441-4460

24-HOUR AUTOMATED TELEPHONE RENEWAL  
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Prepared by the Youth Services Department of Lincoln City Libraries  
With help from our friends at Lincoln Public Schools &  
the Nebraska State Department of Education

# There's No Place like



## How to Help Your Children Become Readers

LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES



## If you have children of any age, be sure to:

- \* Have all kinds of reading materials—books, newspapers, magazines—in your house.
- \* Have writing materials available for very young as well as older children.
- \* Be seen reading often.
- \* Talk with your children about the reading you do.
- \* Have library cards for all members of the family.
- \* Make visits to the library a regular habit.
- \* Suggest reading for more information on interesting topics.
- \* Make reading a regularly-scheduled activity.
- \* Converse with them in a way that helps them make connections.

## Some tips about reading aloud:

- \* This is a time to enjoy, so be relaxed and flexible.
- \* Before you begin to read, make predictions about what will happen, based on the cover.
- \* Choose books with rhyme or repetition which children can predict and enjoy.
- \* Not everyone will read dramatically, but it is important to read with expression.
- \* When children are restless, it may help if they hold stuffed animal or other toy.
- \* Pay attention to times when your children may need background information in order to understand.
- \* Be prepared to read favorite stories over and over.
- \* Make sure that children can see the pictures and the words.
- \* Choose times when distractions are at a minimum.
- \* Solicit your child's help, turning pages or pointing out parts of the pictures.



## If your child is an infant:

- \* Set aside time to share books together. You may not actually read a full book, but you can look at pages together.
- \* Provide heavy-duty board books or fabric books that can stand up to heavy use.
- \* Recite nursery rhymes to Baby.
- \* Sing songs to Baby.
- \* Talk often to Baby.
- \* Begin a baby book including pictures and stories of your baby.
- \* Put board books around with other toys.
- \* Keep books in your diaper bag for times when you are waiting.

## If your children are learning to read, you can:

- \* Remember that learning to read is hard work!
- \* Look for books at a "first reader" level.
- \* Take turns reading a page at a time.
- \* Show your child how pictures often provide clues.
- \* Help your child understand how to sound out words.
- \* Provide a missing or incorrect word before frustration sets in.
- \* Consult with your child's teacher for appropriate books and strategies.
- \* Continue to read books aloud.
- \* Provide specific praise.

## If your children can read on their own, you can:

- \* Continue reading aloud to them.
  - This continues to build their vocabularies.
  - Allows you to have conversations about what is read.
  - Provides a way of exploring topics such as drug abuse, alcohol abuse, or sexual development.
  - Allows you a way of sharing your childhood favorite books.
  - Lets your children experience books with reading levels beyond their skill.
  - Allows for a cozy family time together.
- \* Have them read to you, or to younger children.
- \* Celebrate their success.
- \* Have them do practical reading aloud, such as recipes, repair manuals, or telephone numbers.
- \* Help them develop a pen pal relationship.
- \* Give gifts of diaries, stationery, or fun pens and pencils.

## When you're on the road, you can still be making the most of language!

- \* Read road signs.
- \* Play the License Plate game—who sees license plates from the most states?
- \* Play the Alphabet game—who sees all the letters from the alphabet first?
- \* Listen to books on tape.
- \* Make up "acrostic" poems, where the first letter of each line spells out someone's name.
- \* Plan your trips using maps, and mark the maps as you visit places.
- \* Write and send postcards.
- \* Sing lots of songs in the car.

## Ways to have a great time with reading and writing:

- \* Dress up as book characters for Halloween.
- \* Change hats with each new story.
- \* Keep a dictionary handy to look up new words.
- \* Re-tell a story to stuffed animals or pets.
- \* Recite a poem each day at breakfast.
- \* Have a special reward for learning a new word.
- \* Keep a running list of all of the things that can be read—cereal boxes, candy wrappers, and on, and on!
- \* Take "word walks" where you share five words that describe what you see.
- \* Play charades using stories that the family has read aloud together.
- \* Write special notes for lunch boxes, under the pillow, or wherever!
- \* Make readings a traditional part of birthdays and holidays.
- \* Send regular family e-mail newsletters to grandparents and other loved ones.
- \* Keep letter or word magnets on the refrigerator for ongoing word play.
- \* Own favorite books where everyone who has read the book writes short comments with the date, to pass along to other family members.
- \* Begin a birthday tradition of "to me, next year" where each child writes a letter to himself or herself, to be saved and read on the next birthday.