

Do you know how to instill a love of reading in your child?

Researchers have found that there is a very close link between the presence of books in the home and how well young people do in school. Children who are read to often have more proficient language skills when they start school. As parents, our attitude toward reading is key. Frequently reading in front of children shows them that reading is a source of enjoyment. How do you feel about reading? To find out, take this quiz!

THE SECRET TO STARTING OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT: PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

1 I read to my child

- a) Every day
- b) Several times a week
- c) Occasionally

2 I go to the library with my child

- a) At least once a month
- b) Several times per year
- c) Rarely, he/she usually goes with the school

3 I read a story to my child when I want to spend quality time together

- a) Regularly, because I find it is a good way to bond and spend time together
- b) Occasionally, when my child asks me
- c) Rarely

4 I consult recipes and instruction manuals in front of my child

- a) Regularly, because we often cook together and read instructions when doing crafts
- b) Only sometimes, because we don't have the time
- c) Rarely, because I prefer doing these activities by myself

Parental involvement in a child's reading journey is the prime determining factor in how children develop reading skills, regardless of their socioeconomic environment, or whether or not they are "avid" readers. Reading for only 15 minutes a day makes a world of a difference!

FALLING IN LOVE . . . WITH BOOKS!

5 When I read stories to my child

- a) I use different voices and sounds to spark his/her interest
- b) I try to accentuate certain effects of the text
- c) I read quickly, because we often don't have enough time

To show my child that I enjoy reading

- a) I read in front of him/her and talk about what I have read
- b) I explain to my child that it is important to read, and that it is enjoyable as well
- c) I rarely read in front of my child

7 When I read stories to my child

- a) I encourage my child to respond to the texts and the illustrations
- b) I occasionally allow my child time to respond
- c) I ask my child to be completely silent and focus on understanding the text

8 I leave little notes for my child

- a) Every chance I get: in his/her lunch box, on his/her pillow, etc.
- b) Occasionally—for example, in a birthday card
- c) I prefer speaking directly with my child

Between the ages of 0 and 6, young children are more open to discovering reading. During this period, they frequently come in contact with books and other reading materials, especially when interacting with their parents in reading situations. From the moment they are born, children embark on a road to becoming readers.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY!

9 What kinds of books does your child have access to?

- a) Illustrated books, comic books, alphabet books, nonfiction books—anything that can peak his/her interest!
- b) Only story books
- c) There are very few books and magazines in our home

I give my child books or magazine subscriptions as gifts

- a) Ever since he/she was born
- b) Ever since he/she learned how to read
- c) I prefer to give my child toys

I let my child handle books

- a) As much as he/she wants, so that books are part of our daily environment
- b) Sometimes, but I stay nearby to make sure that he/she does not damage them
- c) No, I keep books, especially nice illustrated books, outside of his/her reach because they could get damaged

When buying a book for my child

- a) I choose the book based on my child's interests and occasionally by looking online, or asking a librarian or bookseller
- b) I buy books from popular series
- c) I would rather not buy my child books, in case I choose the wrong one and waste money

There aren't any "non-readers," but rather readers who have not yet experienced that magical connection to a book. Your role is to help your child experience this magic!

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PLACING BOOKS AT YOUR CHILD'S FINGERTIPS

At home, my child has access to books

- a) In almost every room
- b) Only in his/her personal library
- c) We have books on a shelf in the living room

I listen to and repeat nursery rhymes and songs with my child

- a) Often and everywhere: during walks, in the car, before bedtime, etc.
- b) Occasionally, when he/she learns a new one
- c) Never

My child has a special reading space

- a) Yes, I've arranged a reading corner so that books are part of his/her environment
- b) Not particularly, but my child has a shelf filled with books in the family library
- c) Books are placed outside of my child's reach, so that he/she does not lose them

You bring books in the car, to the doctor's waiting room or to friends' houses in order to keep your child occupied

- a) Yes, very frequently
- b) Occasionally, but I'm afraid that my child will lose them or damage them
- c) No, my child prefers to bring toys or video games

Living room table, kitchen table, computer desk, bathrooms: books can be placed anywhere your child could be tempted to pick one up.

RESULTS

Add the number of times you selected a, b, and c as your answer.

You answered mainly a's?

Congratulations! As a parent, you are truly convinced that reading is essential to your child's overall development and happiness. You are aware of the important role that you must play so that your child can become a LIFELONG READER!

You answered mainly b's?

Super! You are already good at facilitating your child's reading experiences. A few extra tips will turn you into the ideal matchmaker between your child and books. You could perhaps draw on some of the guidelines presented here to reach that goal.

You answered mainly c's?

To your credit, you've already made some headway. Whatever you do, don't get discouraged! Your child needs to invest a great deal of effort to become an independent reader, and becoming a good reading guide is just as demanding. But the reward is worth the effort! You could perhaps draw on some of the guidelines presented here to improve.

HAVE SOME FUN!
Why not pass this quiz around to other adults in your child's environment to discover how they feel about reading?