

Give your child a precious gift: A love of reading

Did you know that children who have difficulty learning to read gradually fall behind in all their school subjects? As parents, do you have a good idea of how to help your child? Find out by taking this quiz!

1

Reading has been a part of my family routine

- a) Ever since my child was born
- b) Ever since my child has become more aware of books and shown an interest in them
- c) Ever since my child has started school

YOU AND YOUR CHILD CAN DO THIS!

Between the ages of 0 and 6, young children are more open to discovering reading. This is a time where they come in frequent contact with reading materials, especially when interacting with their parents in reading situations.

2

I read to my child

- a) Every day
- b) Every week
- c) When he/she asks me

THE KEY TO PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IS FREQUENCY

Parental involvement in a child's reading journey is the fundamental factor in how children develop reading skills, regardless of their socioeconomic environment, or whether or not they are "big" readers. Only 15 minutes of reading per day makes all the difference in the world. Remember: you must continue to read your child's favourite stories even when he/she has started reading alone.

3

When I read stories to my child

- a) I liven up the text to capture my child's attention and allow him/her to react
- b) I ask my child not to interrupt and to listen carefully
- c) I read the text quickly

BRINGING CHARACTERS TO LIFE IS SO MUCH FUN!

If it is fun for the child, it can also be fun for the adult to tell the story, spark the child's imagination or play different characters. This is a golden opportunity to bond with your child and get to know him/her better.

4

I provide my child with the necessary resources

- a) There are different kinds of books (illustrated stories, nonfiction books, comic books, etc.) everywhere at home and I also borrow books from the library
- b) There are books in the family library
- c) There are very few books at home

BOOKS, BOOKS EVERYWHERE!

All the studies show that there is a very close connection between the presence of books at home and how well young people do in school. Many studies also show that children who were read to often and who are surrounded by books at home have more proficient language skills when they start school.

5

My child and I talk about what he/she likes to read and what we have read

- a) Frequently, because it allows him/her to understand that it is normal to enjoy different kinds of books
- b) Sometimes, because I want to make sure that my child has understood what has been read
- c) Rarely

BOOKS FOR EVERYONE

There are no "nonreaders," but rather readers who have not yet experienced that magical connection to a book. The parents' role is to help their child experience this magic without trying to make their child "learn to read." Note that girls and boys generally have different tastes in reading: girls tend to like fiction, whereas boys prefer nonfiction. Do you try to discover what kinds of books your child likes to read?

6

Once my child is in school, I help him/her learn to read

- a) I encourage my child to read alone, and continue reading to him/her as well
- b) I listen to my child as he/she reads the texts recommended by the school
- c) I let my child read alone so he/she can improve

LEARNING TO READ TAKES TIME

Learning to read is a difficult transition for your child. Your child must go beyond the pleasure of being read to and invest the effort needed to decipher texts. There is no point in hiding the fact that he/she will have to work in order to discover the joy of reading. Encourage your child by telling him/her about the pleasure that comes with reading. It is important that your child feels a sense of accomplishment and skill.

7

I am aware that my child needs a reading role model

- a) I read a variety of materials in front of my child, for pleasure or for other purposes
- b) I tell my child that it is important to read in order to succeed in life
- c) I do not make an effort to read in front of my child

A CHILD NEEDS INSPIRING ROLE MODELS!

Parents who show that they enjoy reading and who often read in front of their child (a novel, a practical book, a newspaper, a magazine, etc.) help their child develop a taste for reading.

8

I try to make my child aware of the usefulness of reading in everyday life

- a) With my child, I read different types of texts (newspapers, instruction manuals, recipes, non-fiction books, TV guide, signs, Web pages, etc.)
- b) I encourage my child to read from different sources of information
- c) I only read story books with my child

DISCOVERY AWAITS BETWEEN THE PAGES OF A BOOK—HOW EXCITING!

Parents play a crucial role in helping their child understand the power of reading: reading can bring happiness, it can be a source of information, it can stimulate the reader and it can help him/her better understand the world! Does your child see you find answers to your questions when reading?

9

When reading for pleasure, I allow my child to stop reading the book if he/she doesn't like it

- a) Always, because I accept that my child has reading preferences
- b) Sometimes, but I encourage my child to continue reading a little more before giving up
- c) Never, because we have to finish what we start

MAKE READING FOR PLEASURE A PRIORITY

There is no point in making a scene if a child does not feel like reading anymore, because reading should not be seen as a chore. Accept that your child does not have to like all the books presented and avoid criticizing his/her personal choices—now those are winning attitudes!

10

I visit places connected to the world of books with my child: libraries, book stores, book fairs

- a) Every week
- b) Every month
- c) Two or three times a year

A VARIETY OF BOOKS TO SINK YOUR TEETH INTO

Even when there is food in the house, we enjoy going out to restaurants because of the diversity of foods offered. The same applies to reading. Even though we first discover the love of reading at home, libraries and bookstores offer a very vast and diverse selection. There is enough to satisfy the cravings of every reader! You might even meet the authors of these texts. Who knows?

SO, WHAT IS YOUR PROFILE?

Add the number of times you selected a, b and c as your answers.
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. Moreover, you demonstrate that you are aware of the important role that you must play so that your child can become a LIFELONG READER!

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.

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. However, the effort is worth it in the end! You could perhaps draw on some of the guidelines presented here to improve. Would the other adults in your family obtain the same result as you on this quiz?

HAVE SOME FUN!

Why not pass this test around to other adults in your child's environment to discover how they feel about reading?



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