

Reading With Your Child

Promote Reading Before Your Child Loses Interest in It

By the ages of seven and eight, children are learning to read on their own. They are starting to read longer "chapter" books. For some children, however, this is a time when they lose interest in reading. Here are some ways to make sure your seven- or eight-year-old keeps reading:

-  Follow your child's interests. If he likes soccer, get books on soccer. If he has a pet hamster, check out books about hamsters.
-  Share books you loved as a child. Read them with your child. Your love for the book is sure to inspire your child.
-  Look for fairy tales. Children at this age love magical stories.
-  Get a craft book. Make a project together.
-  Find an interactive book. Some books allow children to make choices about the next section to read. Try it two ways: First, your child chooses, then you choose which way to follow the story.
-  Encourage your child to read to someone younger. There's no easier way for a child to practice reading than by sharing with someone else. It also raises your child's self-esteem.
-  Find books that answer your child's questions. "What's that flower?" he asks as you're walking. If you don't know, get a book from the library.
-  Check out riddle and joke books. Jokes are the height of seven-year-old humor. You can't stop the "knock-knock" jokes, but you can make sure your child has some new material.