

# ABCs of Raising Good Readers for Families and Communities



**A**sk your child questions about the story you're reading to ensure comprehension.

**B**ook family time to read with your children every day.

**C**reate a special reading place in your home, with your child's favorite books within reach.

**D**onate funds to a literacy cause.

**E**ncourage children to read words on TV, street signs, mugs and T-shirts.

**F**ind new stories to read with your children every week. Vary their length and subject matter.

**G**ive your time to read aloud to a child.

**H**ave a child read a book to you.

**I**nternational Literacy Day is held on September 8 every year. Celebrate the day by picking up a book and reading to a child.

**J**anuary 27 is Family Literacy Day in Canada and November 1 in the United States. Find out how to [create an event](#) in your corner of the world.

**K**eep teens reading. Give them books, newspaper articles and magazines about things that interest them – music, movies, TV and computers.

**L**et children count out the change when making a purchase. Reinforce the importance of math in everyday life!

**M**ake every day a learning day. Ask your children to make a shopping list, read recipes together or help them make a calendar of their weekly activities.

**N**ewborns benefit from reading too!

**O**rganize a children's book club with friends in your neighborhood.

**P**ick one night a week to make a regular visit to the library.

**Q**uiet, cozy reading spaces are good places for your child to read independently.

**R**emember that children learn by example – if you recognize the importance of reading, your children will too!

**S**tart early! It's never too early to read to your children.

**T**reat a child to a story a day.

**U**se reading time to create a special bond with a child.

**V**olunteer your time. Family literacy groups in your community could use your help with tutoring adults, reading to children and helping out with administrative tasks.

**W**rite a letter.

**X**-ercise your mind! Reading ability is like a muscle, if you don't exercise it often, you will not maintain the same level of reading ability as you get older. So - "use it or lose it"!

**Y**ou are the key to improving a child's reading ability by placing a high priority on reading in your home.

**Z**ap off the TV - pick up a book instead!