

Raising a Successful Reader

part 3

Enriching Your Child's Reading Experience



How can parents help an average reader become an enthusiastic, life-long reader?

Research proves that the more children read outside of school, the better they do in school. Once children begin to read, encourage them to read often—just for the fun of it. Here are some ideas:

Covering the basics

- Be sure to have lots of books, magazines and newspapers available around the house for children to read.
- Have your children spend more time reading and less time watching television and playing video games. Limit television viewing to 10 or fewer hours per week.
- Make reading time a regular part of your child's daily routine, as important as homework, dinner and nightly bath. Provide a quiet, comfortable place to read, with good lighting.
- Give children their own special bookshelf or bookcase at home, if possible. Teach them how to take care of their books.

Getting good books into your home

- Visit your public library often, and get each child his or her own library card. Ask the staff about good books for children.
- Shop for books at garage and yard sales, swap meets and used bookstores. Have children shop with you and select their own books.
- If a child has a favorite interest, movie or television show, find books on related topics.
- If your child loves one book in particular, try to find other titles written by that same author.
- Encourage relatives and friends to give your children books or subscriptions to magazines as gifts. If they are unsure about titles, a gift certificate from a local bookstore is a good alternative.



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Missouri National Education Association
www.mnea.org

Teachers' top 25 books for children

1. *Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White (9-12 years)
2. *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg (4-8 years)
3. *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss (4-8 years)
4. *The Cat in the Hat* by Dr. Seuss (4-8 years)
5. *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak (4-8 years)
6. *Love You Forever* by Robert N. Munsch (4-8 years)
7. *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein (All ages)
8. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle (Baby-Preschool)
9. *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls (Young Adult)
10. *The Mitten* by Jan Brett (4-8 years)
11. *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown (Baby-Preschool)
12. *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen (9-12 years)
13. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis (9-12 years)
14. *Where the Sidewalk Ends: The Poems and Drawings of Shel Silverstein* by Shel Silverstein (All ages)
15. *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson (9-12 years)
16. *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon (4-8 years)
17. *Oh, The Places You'll Go* by Dr. Seuss (4-8 years)
18. *Strega Nona* by Tomie De Paola (4-8 years)
19. *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* by Judith Viorst (4-8 years)
20. *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin, Jr. (Baby-Preschool)
21. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl (9-12 years)
22. *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams (4-8 years)
23. *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle (9-12 years)
24. *Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (9-12 years)
25. *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Seuss (4-8 years)



Oh, the Places You'll Go!