

## Secrets for Making Children Want to Read

Reading aloud to children of all ages is one of the best ways to help them develop a love of books. It can also be a special time to spend with your kids. Here are some tips to keep kids interested:

- ❖ Don't read stories that you don't enjoy yourself. Your dislike will show in the reading.
- ❖ Don't get too comfortable. If you lie down, you're likely to get drowsy. If you slouch, your voice will lose its energy.
- ❖ Don't be surprised if your kids interrupt with a lot of questions. Answer those questions right away. "There is no time limit for reading a book."
- ❖ Don't confuse quantity and quality. Your child will remember 10 minutes of reading far longer than he/she will remember two hours of television.
- ❖ Don't try to compete with the television. Tell your children the TV will be turned off at a certain time each evening—whether you read aloud or not. Ask if they want to hear you read. If they don't, that's fine—but the television does not come back on.

### **You Set the Example**

Children who see their parents reading usually grow up to be readers themselves. This is one of those times that actions really do speak louder than words. Talk with your children about why you're reading—for information, pleasure, etc.

### **Make Reading Easy and Fun**

If the television is easy to reach, but books are on a high shelf, you can guess how your kids will spend their time. Make sure books, magazines and newspapers are easy to get.

Reading in unusual places also adds to the fun. Look for unusual places children can read. You might consider:

- Outside, under a shady tree, in a sandbox, in a hammock or at a nearby park
- Under a tent made by tossing a sheet over a clothesline or table
- In the car during road trips or traffic delays
- Sitting on a blanket spread on the floor for an indoor reading picnic