

How can I help my child
become a more enthusiastic
reader?

1. **Read yourself!** Model for your children how you choose books to read for pleasure, how you find the time to read and who you talk to about your reading. Let them read with you when you need to read for information (especially when it matters to the family, like what movies are playing tonight!)
2. **Make sure your children read every day.** We know that what gets scheduled, gets done. Children need to know that reading every day, even if it's just for pleasure, is an important thing to do that will help them in school and in life.
3. **Visit your local library.** The information is on the back of this brochure. Make sure your whole family has library cards, and that you use them. Library time is a great way to spend time together as a family.
4. **Read aloud to your children.** No matter how old or young your children are, they will always enjoy cuddling up with you and a good book. Just make sure that everyone is interested in the book. It's no fun if you're faking it!
5. **Choose books for birthday parties.** Books make great gifts and are often overlooked when shopping for other children. This is a great way for your child to take some ownership in gift giving. Ask them what their friend would be interested in. They will probably start asking for books themselves!
6. **Let reading be the reward.** Sometimes we are only focused on what we think is enjoyable for kids when they do what we ask. Let extra reading time be a reward for completing chores or being a good listener.
7. **Check out the reading resources in this brochure!**

LIBRARY INFORMATION

COOK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

www.cooklib.org

Aspen Drive Library

701 Aspen Dr.
Vernon Hills, IL 60061
(847) 362-2330

Cook Park Library
413 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Libertyville, IL 60048
(847) 362-2330

HOURS:

Monday - Thursday	9 am - 9 pm
Friday	9 am - 6 pm
Saturday	9 am - 5 pm
Sunday	1 pm - 5 pm

Fremont Library

www.fremontlibrary.org

1170 N. Midlothian Rd.
Mundelein, IL 60060
(847) 566-8702

HOURS:

Monday - Thursday	9 am - 9 pm
Friday and Saturday	9 am - 5 pm
Sunday	1 pm - 5 pm

HAWTHORN CCSD #73
841 W. END CT.
VERNON HILLS, IL 60061
(847) 990-4200

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S LITERACY SKILLS

PARENTS' GUIDE



✿ LITERACY AT HAWTHORN ✿

Hawthorn teachers strive to involve students in authentic literacy experiences every day. Here are some ways you can support your child's reading at home.

When you are reading to your child, ask them questions to help with their comprehension:

1. After looking at all the pictures in a book, ask about what is going to be read. This helps them to connect to what they already know about the topic.
2. Ask important questions, or questions that you really have in your mind as you are reading.
3. Avoid questions that distract your child from the story like, "What would you do in this situation?" Although it might be a good question to ask AFTER you've read, it can take children away from the story while they are reading.
4. When you are done reading, ask your child to tell you again what happened in the story. This helps your child to get a clear picture of why the author wrote the book, and what the main events were.
5. Finally, help your child find a way to extend their reading by drawing a picture about the story, or writing about it. These are great ways to reflect on reading.

Especially for Parents

You may have tangible wealth untold;

Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold.

Richer than I you can never be -

I had a mother who read to me.

- Strickland Gillilan

How can I help my child choose the right books to read?

- * Consider your child's interests. Help your child find books that will lead to new learning for them.
- * Ask family and friends for suggestions of what books their children have enjoyed.
- * Ask your librarian to recommend books.
- * Look at books that have won awards. Caldecott, Newberry and Coretta Scott King award books are often very good.
- * Make sure that the stories and illustrations present different issues in positive ways.
- * If your child does not like a book you are reading together, put it away. Reading should be a fun time to share.
- * Have fun! Show your child that the joy of reading can open up new worlds to them!

Book Finder Sites

www.kidsread.com - a site with book reviews, games, authors and more

www.guysread.com - a site specifically geared toward boys and reading

www.PlaneEsme.com - this is a site with booklists and book ideas from a librarian-turned-author

www.home.comcast.net/~ngiansante/index.html - a site for parents including book recommendations for all ages

Grammar and Phonics

www.school-house-rock.com/GrammarRock.html - a site with grammar and phonics help - and GREAT songs!

Reading Games

www.funbrain.com

www.scholastic.com/kids/home.htm

Activity Websites

www.paginajunior.com - a bilingual (Spanish/English) children's newspaper features educational games, activities and websites for children ages 5-12

www.rif.org - Reading is Fundamental is a site with great resources for parents and kids

www.bookadventure.com - a site where students read books and take quizzes for prizes

www.familyeducation.com - a site with ideas supporting school skills in reading, math, social studies and science. Printable games and learning activities to do while riding in the car area available, too. Activities are grouped by grade.

For more websites, check out

www.hawthorn73.org, or talk with your child's teacher!