



# Creating a Home Library

The Parent Helper  
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We all want our kids to love to read. How can we help this happen? By making reading a relaxing, enjoyable part of everyday life. To do that, you need to encourage your child to read at home. And it helps if she has a comfortable and inviting place to curl up with her books. Setting up a home library sends the message that reading is an important part of family life and isn't just for school or the library.

A home library doesn't take up much space—a corner of your child's room is perfect. You just need a bookcase, books, and some thought. Try these suggestions for creating a reading area that not only offers reading material but also invites your child to think about what she's read and to exercise her own imagination and creativity.

1. **Choose the right spot.** Design an inviting space where books are kept and read. Put out soft pillows or a beanbag chair so your child can snuggle up with a favorite story. Make sure there's good lighting.
2. **Put books within reach.** Use low, sturdy shelves so your child can safely select the books on her own. You'll need to show her how to put them away with the spine facing out!
3. **Repair rips.** Use clear tape to reinforce bindings and mend tears.
4. **Have regular rotations.** Change the books on display so your child is encouraged to try new stories as well as cherished favorites.
5. **Respond to your child's interests.** Offer books, magazines, and current catalogs about the topics your child is most fascinated with. Her teacher or the local librarian can help you find books about particular subjects.
6. **Swap books.** Set up a book-lending system with other parents. Kids can share their favorite stories with friends-and discover new ones.
7. **Extend the experience.** Encourage your child to retell and think about the stories by providing a flannel board and cutouts, character puppets, and art materials for making story-inspired creations.
8. **Make your own books.** Keep markers, pencils, crayons, and paper nearby. Encourage your child to dictate, write, or draw her own books and design bookmarks. Adding her creations to your library will be a great source of pride!

## Best Books for Each Age Group

### Infants-Toddlers

Use board books with this age. The small-sized, thick cardboard pages can easily be turned and the bright illustrations will engage your child's attention and will put this particular reading event under her control.

Splash! by Roberta Grobel Intrater

Time for Bed by Mem Fox

Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown

Sleepy Bunny by Dorothy Kunhardt

## Preschoolers

Preschoolers like books with rhyme, repetition and pictures. Their books usually contain more pictures than words. They enjoy information and story books that are both realistic and fantasy.

On Top of Spaghetti by Paul Brett Johnson

I Love You, Stinky Face by Lisa McCourt

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin

Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed by Eileen Christelow

Good Night, Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann

## School Aged

Books for kindergarteners to read should be very short (8 pages) with few words on each page. They contain familiar, but interesting objects or actions and are predictable and patterned. First and second grade books are still short and patterned with large text and many picture clues. Though they still have simple concepts and predictability, the text includes complex sentences for deeper reading. Humor and rhymes are great first-grade books.

Casey at the Bat by Ernest Lawrence Thayer

Miss Nelson Is Missing by Harry Allard

The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka

What Do You Do with a Tail Like This? by Steve Jenkins

The Adventures of Captain Underpants by Dav Pilkey

Superfudge by Judy Blume



For more information visit:

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/>



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