

# Reading Together



November is family literacy month. Research shows that families that make a practice of reading together and sharing ideas about books help develop better students and lifelong learners.

Here are some ideas to promote family reading:

1. **Read To Me** – young children love to be read to. They enjoy the one to one exclusive time with their parent. Older children also like to hear you read passages from your favorite books. Reading to an older child is great way to spark a discussion or to introduce a difficult topic.
2. **Use the Comics** – Laughter is a great motivator. Read the comics together. If your child does not understand why the comic is funny, explain it to him/her. Try cutting out the word balloons and have your child make their own words for the comic.
3. **Riddle Me** – Riddle books, jokes, puzzle books are great sources for shared reading. Children love the rhythm and word play that many riddles and poems have. As your child becomes more mature their interest in the types of riddles will change.
4. **A library safari** – Plan a themed trip to the library. Have your child come up with a special topic and use the library to research that topic. It might be an imagined trip, a hobby, or a special occasion that will spark your child's interest.
5. **Crafting** – Select a craft activity that will interest you child. Find books and articles about that craft. Read together to discover more information.
6. **Note it** – Develop the habit of sharing notes with your child. Leave notes in the lunch bag, on their pillow at night, taped to the mirror in the morning, next to their breakfast dishes. Have them leave you notes – this will help develop their writing skills too.
7. **Go Hunting** – a scavenger hunt or a treasure hunt around the house is a great way to spend a cold wet winter afternoon when there is nothing else to do.