

1) ACCESS is HUGE when it comes to raising readers!

We have books everywhere — the playroom, bedrooms, living room, kitchen and even in my car. They are literally coming out of our ears.

It's so easy to have books around your house - you know why? The library is free!

Take trips to the library and keep books in every room where you and your kids hang out.

You can get creative and have books by theme for each room, or just place stacks of books they love all over the house.

Why is this so important?

You want to create a culture of reading in your family. And if that's not a good enough reason, studies have shown that having books in the home is just as important as a parent's educational background when it comes to assessing and predicting educational attainment.

2) Develop a reading habit by KEEPING IT FRESH!

Don't ever stop reading books your kiddos love. That's a given.

With that being said, though, always make sure to rotate in new exciting stories. New books are published by the week, and there are always new gems your kids (and you!) will love!

Also, pay attention to what is going on in your child's life and add in new books that might help them tackle their current challenges.

Problems with friends? Grab some picture books about friendship.

Confidence issues? There are awesome self-esteem books for kids that will help your children learn to love their unique traits.

Giving up too easily? Read some growth mindset books for kids, and your children will see the beauty and importance of adopting a growth mindset.

When children see themselves in stories, magic happens. I promise. And you can do this by paying attention and keeping it fresh.

3) If you want to raise a reader, get books about WHAT INTERESTS YOUR KIDS!

If your child absolutely despises princesses, do me a favour and don't try to encourage reading by handing her a princess book, no matter how much your friend's neighbour's daughter's teacher says her students are loving a particular story.

If you want to develop reading habits in your children, get them books about their hobbies and interests them.

Does your child love unicorns? Scour the library for picture books about unicorns.

Do you have a sports fanatic on your hands? There are amazing children's books about sports, including biographies of their favourite athletes!

Is your little one obsessed with facts? Run with that, and get her some nonfiction picture books that will fill her brain with amazing information.

I promise, when you get them books about topics they already love, you will see sparks light up the room. So cue in to what your child is totally into and run to the library with that information. There are great stories about every topic under the sun. And if a book piques their interest, they will be excited to pick it up!

4) Develop a love of reading by giving BOOKS AS REWARDS!

When we celebrate a special occasion in our house, such as a great month of behaviour, the end of school, or a big accomplishment like riding a bike, I love to use books as rewards.

Whether it's wrapping up a special story and leaving it on their pillow, or taking my boys to the bookstore and giving them free reign to pick out a book or two, it has become clear to my kids that books are oh-so-special. And that's because when we need to celebrate, I make a big fuss over their accomplishment and gift them with an awesome story.

Grab a book you know your child will love and leave it with a special note to congratulate them on a big win. Celebrate big and little moments with an enticing trip to the book store.

Give them coupons for a special individual story time with mom, dad or even big bro or sis if they do all their chores without complaint.

And who says the tooth fairy has to give a dollar?

You get the idea? Make books an exciting treat!

