

# Print Motivation

**Print Motivation** is one of the six early literacy skills that researchers say are important for children to become readers. **Print Motivation** is a child's interest in and enjoyment of books and reading. Children who enjoy books are more likely to want to learn to read, and to keep trying even when it is hard.



Here are some ways you can develop or strengthen your child's love of books...

# Families...

## Use your library...

A great way to help your child develop a love of reading is to take advantage of the services provided by your library.

**Activity 1:** Most storytimes and events do not require a library card. There is a schedule of your library's storytimes or special events for you to take home.

**Activity 2:** In order to check out books, movies, or music, you will need a library card. If you do not have a card, you can sign up for one right now. There are forms and instructions available nearby.

- Some library websites have on-line or e-books available to download with a library card. Ask your librarian about these computer services.
- Most libraries have computers with free Internet access available for their patrons. However, some libraries require you to have a library card in order to use them.



# Babies...

Sharing board books, bath books or cloth books.

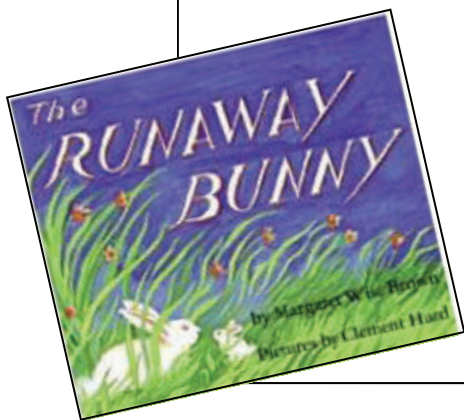
It is natural for babies to bite on books. You can gently take the book from her mouth and open it to show her the pictures. Show her how fun it is to share a book together, even if it is just for a couple of minutes at a time. A book is a toy at this age.



# Toddlers...

Choose a book you like to read.

It's important to keep reading and sharing books FUN! Let your child control the book, and be comfortable with your toddler's short attention span. Stop reading if he gets bored. It is not important to finish the book. Use books in routines and at bedtimes.



# Preschoolers...

Choose quality,  
age-appropriate books.

Children at this age can listen to longer stories. They begin to play with language and they like silly stories. They also like information books that match their interests.

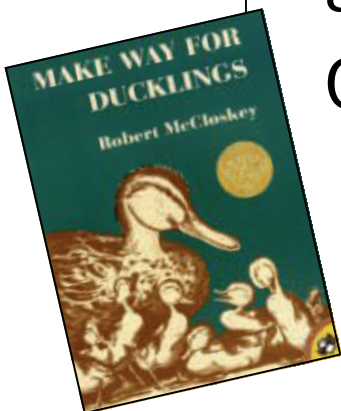
Choose books with detailed pictures that you and your child can talk about. Look for award winners, such as Caldecott and Newbery.



# School Age...

Choose quality,  
age-appropriate books.

Children at this age begin reading words and stories on their own, but they also still love being read to! Choose books that have longer plots, and have detailed pictures that you and your child can talk about. They also like information books that match their interests. Look for award winners, such as Caldecott and Newbery.



# Center Instructions...

- Choose a variety of board books and picture books to set out.
  - Include non-fiction titles that are age-appropriate.
  - Include Caldecott, Newbery and other award winners.
- Make a cozy reading spot for families to cuddle up and read.
- Post storytime and event schedules, and set out copies for families to take.
- Set out library card applications and pens. Applications can be copied on colored paper to show they are from First Book families.
- Set out tray or box to collect applications.

