

Sharing the Joy of Reading with Your Child

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As parents and educators, we all understand the importance of our children becoming successful readers. Here is an interesting fact: If a child, 6 months to 5 years old, is read to:

6 days a week
30-40 minutes
experiences 2,671,000 words
90% on first standardized test

6 days a week
12.9 minutes
experiences 610,000 words
50% on first standardized test

6 days a week
1.9 minutes
experiences 51,000 words
10% on first standardized test

After attending your child's parent-teacher conference, you were probably told to make sure your child reads everyday at home for at least 15-20 minutes each day. The problem arises when you have a reluctant reader. In this article, we will provide you with some websites that provide leveled books and at-home activities/ incentives, and also share a few of **our** favorite books and activities!

Okay! You're at the bookstore with the reading level number your child's teacher so graciously provided at the parent-teacher conference. The only problem is, the books aren't labeled with these levels! What do you do? Visit *LeveledBooks.com* and type in your child's letter reading level. If you need the **letter** that matches your **number** reading level, just click onto their Equivalency Chart, and all the information you need is there! Once you typed in your child's reading level, a list of appropriate books will be shown on the screen. Remember to ask the teacher for your child's independent, as well as guided reading level. If you have selected a book that is not on *LeveledBooks.com*, contact your child's teacher and/or school reading consultant. They will be able to level the book using Leveling Criteria and/or the resource book, 'Matching Books to Readers: Using Leveled Books in Guided Reading, K-3' by Fountas & Pinnell.

Another great website, *BookAdventure.com*, not only has a Kids Zone where prizes are awarded, but also a Parent's Place and Teacher's Lounge. Best of all, this website is free! At *BookAdventure.com* you will find activities to do as a family and also be able to monitor your child's progress. At Parent's Place, you and your child can also visit Book Finder, to help select books that match your child's interest and reading level. This is a great website, and-*once again-it's free!!!*

KidsReads.com is another free website! At this website, children can find information about their favorite books and authors. There are trivia games, word

scrambles and book lists/ reviews. Your child can also research how to start a book club and possible discussion questions are provided for many books. Also, author addresses are listed to allow your child to write to his/her favorite author. You may also sign-up for the *KidsReads.com* newsletter!

Our last website to tell you about is fun, educational and a true motivational tool for reluctant readers. However, it is not free.

Tumblebooks.com is an online library of animated talking picture books. This website allows your child the choice of reading the text on their own, or having the computer read the text. There are comprehension quizzes, games, lesson plans and worksheets. We encourage you to check out the free virtual tour for families and explore the wide variety and quality books it provides. The cost for the family plan is \$29.99 per year. If your school chooses to purchase this program, your child can participate for free by connecting to the site via the school webpage. What an awesome way to connect school-to-home learning!

As we mentioned earlier, we would like to list a few of our favorite books and some correlating activities you may find interesting. Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown is a Guided Reading level H and/or DRA level 14 for the grade one child, but also serves as an excellent read aloud for your preschooler. After a few readings encourage your child to fill in the rhyming word. If this presents difficulty, give your child the first sound of the needed word. Freight Train by Donald Crews is a mid-grade one reader because of the lack of picture support and repetition to solve unknown words. This book serves as an admirable story to teach colors and color words to your preschooler. As your preschooler advances, you can change your questioning from receptive to expressive. An example of a receptive question would be: Can you point to the green car? An expressive question would be: What color is the steam engine? If You Give a Pig a Pancake by Laura Numeroff is a resource for teaching cause and effect. This guided reading level K and/or DRA level 20, although a grade two reader, can be enjoyed by younger children as well. In this story, a cause is the pig became all sticky, so the effect would be to take a bath. Asking your child what he or she would do if their hands became sticky would have them use cause and effect while making a real life connection. A favorite of all, Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin Jr. is a Guided Reading level C and/or DRA level 3. In addition to color identification, this book is an outstanding resource for teaching real and make believe. While reading this story, you and your child can categorize what you would see in real life as opposed to make believe.

We hope you will enjoy visiting the websites and sharing the suggested stories/activities with your child. Please email us with any questions you may have pertaining to book titles or reading levels. We will personally respond to all e-mails as soon as possible.

Tricia Terrance and Linda Massucci hold master's degrees in remedial reading. If you have any topics/questions you would like addressed in future articles, please send an e-mail to Linda & Tricia at LINDAMASSUCCI@aol.com.