

# Help your child learn to read

*The most powerful things you can do!*



## 1

### READ WITH YOUR CHILD

Surround your child with books. Boxes filled with books at home. Bags of books in the car or on the bus. Make reading your go-to activity.

Give your child a healthy “book diet” filled with different types of books: nonfiction, fiction, picture books, chapter books, etc.

Get the most out of reading together by using the “ABCs of Active Reading.” See next page for more information.

Create a reading routine for each day (could be 10 minutes before bed, the 15 minutes after they get home from school, etc). The goal is to make reading an enjoyable habit.

## 2

### TEACH YOUR CHILD TO READ

Go to [ReadingCheckup.org](https://www.readingcheckup.org) to get a free individual reading plan and recommended activities for your PreK-3rd grade student in as little as 20 minutes.

Build the Reading Checkup activities into your weekly routines.

Ask your child what they are interested in. Then visit the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. Librarians may have great ideas to match your child's interests. For example: a child interested in sharks may enjoy books with shark characters, nonfiction books about sharks, and much more.

Keep reading together, even after your child can read on their own. Choose a book that your child can't read (yet) and dig in! Reading novels and chapter books together is a great way to build vocabulary and love of literature.

Reading, like any skill, is something that gets better with practice. Capture your child's reading moments (favorite books, them reading aloud) and celebrate together how far they've come!



# Finding the time

FINDING TIME TO READ IS THE #1 CHALLENGE THAT WE HEAR FROM FAMILIES! HERE ARE A FEW WAYS TO TAME THE CLOCK:

Focus on quality, not quantity. Even reading and talking about a book for 5 minutes builds reading skills and connects your child with stories, characters and information.

Capture "down time." Time in the carpool line, waiting for the bus and waiting for grocery pick up are all good times to read. Play an audiobook in the car, keep a bin of books in the car, or carry a novel with you so you can read any time.

Redefine reading. Reading can be asking a question and searching the internet, and reading the web sites, for answers. It could be reading a few movie reviews to decide what to watch tonight.

Get creative with bedtime: Let your child read in bed (maybe with a flashlight) for an extra 10-15 minutes each night. They get reading time, and you can push bedtime a few minutes earlier.

Make sure you can always reach for a book; stack library books on the living room couch or put books on the kitchen table. The easier it is to pick up a book, the more likely you are to read.

Find us online



## ACTIVE READING

Active Reading is a way to read WITH kids, rather than TO them. Learn all about it by visiting [ReadCharlotte.org/Active-Reading](http://ReadCharlotte.org/Active-Reading).

## READING CHECKUP

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