

Print Motivation

Print Motivation is an interest and enjoyment of books. A child with print motivation enjoys hearing books read, playing with books, pretending to write, and takes pleasure in trips to the library. Your child is more likely to develop print motivation after being involved in reading stories with you. The more interested your child is in books and in reading the more willing your child will be to learn.



What can you do to help children enjoy books and want to read more?

- Read often and make it enjoyable. Start reading with your child at a very young age. This early exposure to books will develop a reading routine that can last a lifetime. If you are excited about reading your child will learn to be excited too.
- Read in a good mood, so the experience is a positive one. The use of harsh or negative language to keep your child's attention will only associate negative feelings with reading. Instead, be excited about reading with your child. Use the pictures to draw your child's attention. The more involved your child is in the reading of the book the more enjoyable the experience.
- Make shared book reading a special time for closeness between you and your child. Reading to your child should not be a chore (for you or your child). Approach reading as a time to bond with your child. Explore the wacky world of Dr. Seuss. Become friends with a pigeon in an assortment of books from Mo Willems. Whatever book you and your child decide to read, enjoy it and your time together.
- Stop reading when your child becomes tired or loses interest. Keep it short and keep it fun!
- Change your voice as you read aloud. It's been found that speaking in "parentese" keeps your child's attention longer than using your regular voice. This means using a slightly higher pitch, and speaking more clearly and slowly. Don't be afraid to create character voices.
- Keep books accessible to your child. Have your child's books on a shelf within reach. Put a few durable books in with your child's toys to encourage books as something fun. You can also keep a few books anywhere your child might go: each room of the house, the car, a diaper bag, and even grandma and grandpa's.
- Let your child see that you enjoy reading. Explain how you use reading and writing in everyday life. Children like to imitate grownups so let them see you reading and model reading.



Mingle Memorial Library
324 Main Street
Brockway, PA 15824
minglelibrary.org

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Print Motivation

Print Sources inside Your Home

Books – Keep books accessible to children. This means in areas your child can reach and in a variety of areas.

Magazines - Whether they are kids magazines or your own, your child will see that these are a different kind of print than book. This will demonstrate different kinds of information from different kinds of print sources.

Newspapers – This is another source that shows you can get different information out of different print sources.

Food Packaging – Reading food packaging with your child is a great opportunity to talk about where food comes from and also making healthy choices. It also opens up a whole new set of vocabulary for your child.

Shopping List – Writing a shopping list with your child helps reinforce the idea that written words stand for real objects. It also shows how reading and writing can be useful.

Mail – Share your mail with your child and help them learn your address. It also shows them that your address is how people find your house. Getting letters or cards in the mail will help your child realize reading and writing is a form of communication with others.



Print Sources outside the Home

Road Signs – Because road signs are a mix of words and pictures, they can help your child understand that symbols can stand for real life objects, actions, or places.

Store Signs – When you go to the store with your child there are a ton of print sources you can point out: the name of the store, store hours, advertisements, and even signs about each aisle at the grocery store.

Restaurant Menus – If you go out to eat with your child, read through the menu with them. Point to the items as you read them. This helps your child understand how you know what they restaurant has even if there aren't any pictures. Menus are another way to show that reading can be useful.

License Plates – When learning the alphabet, reading license plates can be good practice for identifying letters. They work well for learning numbers too!



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