



# Parent **TIP** Sheet #3

## ENTICE THE RELUCTANT READER



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## ENTICE THE RELUCTANT READER

- **Schedule it:** We make time for swimming lessons ball games and our favourite TV shows. So make time for reading, too. Don't let your children watch TV unless they have read something that day. Or limit the time your child watches TV. Read instead.
- **Library:** Take your child to story-telling times at your local library. This will make reading a fun activity. Books on tape can open a world of classic literature your child is mature enough to understand and enjoy, but may find too challenging to read independently. Listen and enjoy together. Visual novels will also help the reluctant reader. Teach your children to be at home in the public library. Encourage them to feed their curiosities.
- **Magazines:** Even if your child prefers "fun stuff" at first, reading skills are being built. Give gift subscription to a magazine that holds lots of interests, one that your child wants to read cover to cover. Let your child buy a book, visit a bookstore and let your child choose a paperback. Books are also great gifts.
- **Tie in books:** Buy books or magazines tied to popular TV shows to spark interest in reading. Have them read a book online. Use the computer to discuss books via e-mail/ chat lines.
- **Fill your home with inviting things to read:** An intriguing magazine article folded open on the bathroom sink, a couple of joke books on the kitchen table or a travel brochure about a planned vacation can inspire reading and discussions.
- **Involve children in activities that require reading:** Try projects, like crafts, where your child must read instructions or books. Even an excursion through the TV guide includes reading lessons.

- **Area:** Set up a comfortable area in your home where your child can find books and other interesting reading materials. A favourite snack, CD, comfortable clothes or a quiet corner can enhance reading pleasure.
- **Snuggle up time:** Find quiet time for you and your child to snuggle and read—it doesn't always have to be at bedtime. Children enjoy the time you spend together. When you read together they learn that reading time is special because it is shared with you. Catch each other reading! Show your child that reading is fun, intriguing and enjoyable. Laugh out loud. Make comments and share what you read. The more you practice the better readers you and your child will become.
- **Media:** Look through the newspaper to find dates for upcoming community events you plan to attend. As you watch commercials or TV programs, talk about the messages delivered.
- **Difficulties:** Allow your child to put reading down if it is too difficult. Reading for pleasure should become an independent activity. When reading difficult books, read the text aloud or read together. Reread, if needed, to make what is read understandable. Talk about what is hard to understand. Encourage your child to ask for help.
- **Start small:** Read the comics. Then grow, and read comic books. Next, try reading chapter books.
- **Repetition:** Read a book over and over again. Children love repetition and learn from it.
- **Books:** Take books wherever you go in the car, on the bus, to the doctor, to the market or anywhere.

