NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

6. **Encourage reading everywhere!** Keep books in the car, in students' bags, to medical appointments, on camping trips and anywhere else your student may have time to read. It's always time for a good book!

7. **Model good reading and writing habits** for your child by finding reading materials on topics you enjoy. Talk to them about the ways that you communicate with friends and family and encourage your child to do the same.

8. **Make reading a family activity** by taking advantage of the services at your local library and participating in community reading festivals and other literacy events.

9. **Remain a positive support for your child** and work collaboratively with school personnel to help your student achieve their language and literacy goals. It is important to understand that reading difficulty isn't always something that a student can overcome by "trying harder." Your child's teacher will be able to provide strategies tailored to your child's needs.

10. **Make reading fun!** Reading time should never be a punishment or unpleasant. Help your child to find reading materials that appeal to them, are engaging and that make them want to read more. Find or create fun spaces in your home where your child can read. Stretch a blanket between pieces of furniture to create a private reading fort. Add a flashlight and you've created a private space perfect for settling in with a book!

Resources

NDE Early Learning Guidelines
http://www.education.ne.gov/ech/ELGuidelines/ELG.htm

NDE Come As You Are: Kindergarten
http://www.education.ne.gov/ech/CAYA2008.pdf

NDE First Connections with Families
http://www.education.ne.gov/ech/fcwf.html

U.S. Department of Education
http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/hyc.html)
http://www2.ed.gov/espanol/parents/academic/hyc-esp.html

Family Education.com
http://school.familyeducation.com/reading-tips/parents-and-school/33582.html

National Education Association
http://www.nea.org/grants/13841.htm

National Institute for Literacy
http://www.nifl.gov

National PTO Website
http://school.familyeducation.com/reading/family-learning/38301.html

Reading Assist Institute
http://www.readingassist.org/about_us/who_we_are/

Colorín Colorado!
http://www.colorincolorado.org/

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Helping your child learn to read

A Family Guide for Literacy

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Tips, Activities, and Resources to Help Your Child Become a Better Reader

Tips for Parents

1. **Talk to your children…and then listen.** Interactive conversations are one of the most powerful tools for language development—particularly in young children. With older children, discussing news events, school activities and what they are learning in the classroom helps to enrich understanding and helps you keep up with your student and their successes and struggles.

2. **Create a language-rich environment** where students have opportunities to read, write and speak. For example, allowing young children to help create a shopping list and then later help locate the items in the store provides real opportunities for students to practice reading and writing.

3. **Read with your children.** Even upper-elementary and middle school children may enjoy hearing you read to them or doing a paired reading of a book. Reading aloud to a child helps them to hear fluent language and provides an opportunity for you to model good reading. Rich discussion of themes, events and other story elements enhances comprehension.

4. **Help students find reading materials** that are of interest to them so they are engaged and encouraged to make reading a fun activity in their day.

5. **When giving gifts** or asked for gift ideas for your child, recommend books, magazine subscriptions or gift certificates to book stores to encourage literacy and learning.

15 Minute Reading Activities

Make the most of 15 minutes. Try these quick reading activities with your younger child.

1. **License to read.** On car trips, make it a game to point out and read license plates, billboards and interesting road signs.

2. **Better than TV.** Swap evening television for a good action story or a tale of adventure.

3. **Look and listen.** Too tired to read aloud? Listen to a book on tape and turn the book's pages with your children. You'll still be reading with them!

4. **Labels, labels, labels.** Label things in your children's room as they learn to name them. Have fun while they learn that written words are connected to everyday things.

5. **Pack a snack, pack a book**. Going someplace where there might be a long wait? Bring along a snack and a bag of favorite books.

6. **Recipe for reading.** The next time you cook with your children, read the recipe with them. Step-by-step instructions, ingredients and measurements are all part of words in print!

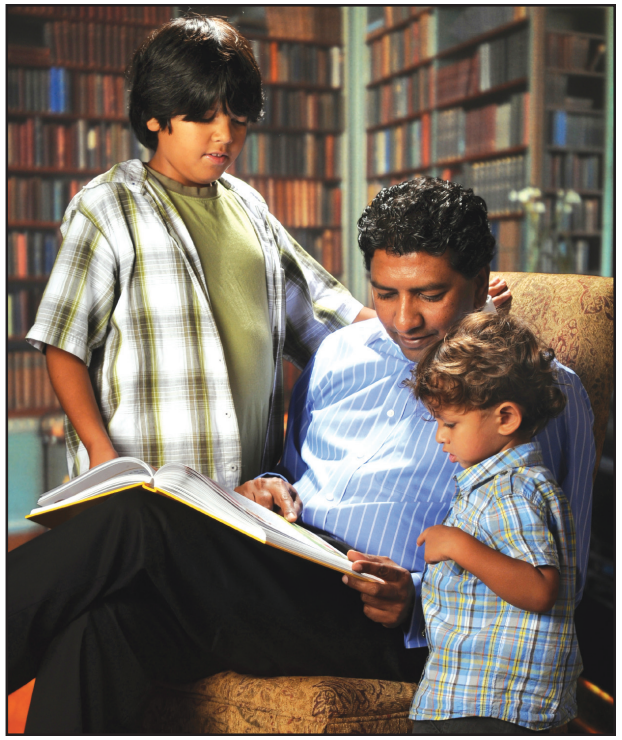
7. **Shop and read.** Notice and read signs and labels in the supermarket. Back home, putting away groceries is another great time for reading labels.

8. **Your long-distance lap.** Away on a business trip? Take a few books with you, call home and have your child curl up by the phone for a good night story.

9. **A reading pocket.** Slip fun things to read into your pocket to bring home: a comic strip from the paper, a greeting card or even a fortune cookie from lunch. Create a special, shared moment your child can look forward to every day.

10. **A little longer?** When your child asks to stay up a little longer, say yes and make it a 15-minute family reading opportunity.

Source: National Parent Teacher Association, edited.



To learn more about what is expected of a good reader of your child's age, please refer to the Nebraska academic content standards at: **http://www.education.ne.gov/read.**

For more information or to access the companion video please contact Tricia Parker at tricia.parker@nebraska.gov or 402-471-4336.