

# WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?

Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
❖ 20 minutes per day.	❖ 5 minutes per day.	❖ 1 minute per day
❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.	❖ 900 minutes per school year.	❖ 180 minutes per school year.
❖ 1,800,000 words per year.	❖ 282,000 words per year.	❖ 8,000 words per year.
		
❖ Scores in the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 10 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.
<p>If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.</p> <p><small>(Oster and Fennell, 1982.)</small></p>		
<p><b>WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.</b></p>		

## 10 Tips to help your child with reading for Kindergarten to grade 3

1. **Cuddle up and read.** Cuddling can be as important as the reading. Make it exciting: put some drama into your voice or let your child read every other page. As you go, explain any new words or ideas.
2. **Public libraries today are worlds to explore so try to go regularly.** Your library has great resources – books, computer games, DVDs, CDs, magazines, newspapers and Internet access. There are also terrific in-house programs such as reading circles for little ones and homework clubs for older children.
3. **Make your kitchen part of your "reading zone".** Have fridge magnets available so children can start making words and short sentences.
4. **Words are everywhere – take everyday opportunities to read with your child.** Your child's world is filled with words – on cereal boxes, street signs, stores, posters, subway ads, etc. Wherever you go, you can always find new words and point them out.
5. **Games can be great learning tools.** Board games or card games such as word bingo or memory and rhyming cards can be a fun way to learn about words, letter sounds, and reading. They can help children realize how much fun learning can be.
6. **Computers are reader friendly too!** Though many worry that kids may spend too much time on the computer, there are some great games that help kids learn to read and allow them to create their own stories. Look for "parent approved" on the packaging in stores and in the library.
7. **Books make great gifts.** Ask family and friends to give a book instead of a toy as a gift. Make sure to tell them about your child's reading level and interests. To build up a home library find almost-new books at garage sales and school fairs.
8. **Subscribe to a magazine.** There's no substitute for the excitement of receiving mail. Let your kids subscribe to their favourite age-appropriate magazine and watch their eyes light up with the arrival of each new issue.
9. **Be a reading role model.** When your kids see you reading, they will want to imitate you. It won't be long until they learn that reading is fun, interesting, and a "grown up" thing to do.
10. **Keep books, magazines and newspapers handy.** Keep a box in the kitchen or living room for easy access.

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<h2>WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.</h2>		

## 10 Tips to help your child with reading for grades 4 to 6

1. **Keep reading with your child.** Kids are never too old to be read to—or let your kids read to you. Read a variety of material – magazines, newspapers, books, poems and comic books.
2. **Public libraries today are worlds to explore so try and go regularly.** Your library has great resources – books, computer games, DVDs, CDs, magazines, newspapers and Internet access. There are also terrific in-house programs such as reading circles for little ones and homework clubs for older children.
3. **Read some of the same books as your child.** There are many books that are loved by people of all ages. Ask your librarian or child's teacher for suggestions. You can share your thoughts and ideas, and have great conversations about the characters, stories or topics.
4. **Ask your children what they're reading.** Ask what it's about and what is most enjoyable about the book. Ask your child to describe it to you.
5. **Tap into interests and hobbies.** Kids are more likely to read about what they find really interesting, like sports or crafts. Don't worry if it's a comic book, magazine or an illustrated novel, just remember all reading is good.
6. **Find books that relate to TV shows.** Let's face it, TV and video games are part of life now and our kids benefit when we help them learn how to think about these messages too. You can use this to your advantage—introduce them to books or magazines that relate to their favourite shows, movies or games.
7. **Encourage your older kids to read to younger kids.** The older child will practice reading out loud and the younger child will enjoy being read to.
8. **Play games together.** Trivia games and board games such as *Junior Trivial Pursuit®* or *Junior Scrabble®* can be a fun way to learn about words and reading.
9. **Computers can be reading zones too!** Though we all feel that kids may spend too much time on the computer, there are some great games that help kids with reading and allow them to create their own stories and books. Look for "parent approved" on the box in stores and in the library.
10. **Give praise.** The best motivation comes from your positive feedback. Whenever your child finishes a reading or writing assignment, ask about what was read and praise your child's effort.

