**Garrison Keillor of *Prairie Home Companion* fame says, “Nothing you do for children is ever wasted.”**

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**Quick Tips!**

*Take books everywhere* (the car, bus, doctor’s office), and make the most of every minute.

*Read everyday items aloud* food labels, maps, menus, cereal boxes, road signs, catalogs, and newspapers.

*Ask local librarian to help* you find books that meet your child’s interests and needs.

*Set up a home library.* A few books on a special shelf is a great start. And it doesn’t have to be expensive: used-book stores, yard sales, and flea markets sell books that children will treasure for years.

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**Ten Reasons to Read to Your Child**

*Ann Scarpellino, Children’s Librarian*  
*Ramsey Free Public Library (NJ)*

1. Because when you hold them and give them this attention, they know you love them.

2. Because reading to them will encourage them to be readers.

3. Because children’s books are so good that they are fun even for adults.

4. Because children’s books illustrators rank with the best and give them a lifelong feeling for art.

5. Because books are one way of passing on your moral values to them. Readers know how to put themselves in another’s shoes.

6. Because, until they learn to read themselves, they will think you are magic.

7. Because every teacher and librarian they ever encounter will thank you.

8. Because it’s nostalgic.

9. Because, for that short space of time, they will stay clean and quiet.

10. Because, if you do, they may then let you read in peace.

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**Imagination Library Program**

Check the map for your county  
[http://www.governorsfoundation.org/Our-Story/Map.aspx](http://www.governorsfoundation.org/Our-Story/Map.aspx) and register for the Imagination Library
• Know yourself and select books which you like and with which you feel comfortable. Do not hesitate to use the same stories over again.

• Choose books that you enjoy and your enthusiasm will spread to your listeners.

• Use a book only if you have read it through.

• Familiarize yourself with rhymes and recurring lines that appear in stories.

• Read naturally and unhurriedly. A gentle, quiet voice will encourage children to listen attentively.

• Don’t be afraid to use distinctive voices for characters in stories. Be dramatic - your child will love it.

• Be flexible and willing to accommodate the child’s attention span and mood. If child become restless, change the pace with a song or quiet activity.

• Let your face show the feelings described in the story.

• Occasionally read challenging books aloud (and do not define unfamiliar words - do so only if the child asks). Kids understand new words from context. This will enrich your child’s vocabulary.

• Mood is an important factor in listening. Give a child time to settle down and prepare for listening.

• If listener exhibits signs of restlessness, edit the story as you read. Summarize boring parts and linger on exciting episodes.

• Remember, you need not finish every book you begin. If your child doesn’t appear to enjoy the book you reading together, try a different one.

“Reading is the one thing parents or caregivers can do to increase their child’s chance at success that doesn’t cost a penny.”
~ Jean Nichols, Clarksville-Montgomery County Public Library