



Creating Literacy-Rich Homes

What exactly is a literacy-rich home? This describes a home environment that encourages children to become lifelong readers. Families can support language learning by creating a home atmosphere in which reading, writing, and talking are a natural part of daily life.

Parents can do lots of things at home to encourage reading. Reading aloud to your children is only one of them. Another is setting aside regular time for family reading, even just 10 to 15 minutes a day. And setting a good example — letting your kids see *you* reading — is very helpful.

Creating a literacy-rich home requires a good supply of things to read. Newspapers, magazines, books, and other reading materials should be within easy reach of the whole family. It doesn't matter if reading materials are owned or borrowed, new or used — what's important is that they are in your home and a natural part of everyday life.



Providing a Literacy-Rich Home Environment

Literacy development begins in infancy! And books are the key ingredient.

In literacy-rich homes, families:

- Establish a regular time and place for reading.
- Have lots of reading materials all over the house; books, atlases, magazines, newspapers, dictionaries...
- Share their love of books and reading. Tell your child what your favorite book was when you were a child.
- Discuss books with their children. Encourage children to think about the characters, setting, problem. Can they predict what will happen next?
- Have plenty of paper and writing tools where children can reach them.
- Model reading and writing for pleasure.

Book Nooks



A book nook is any inviting place for your children to read, away from the hustle and bustle of the household.

How to make a Book Nook:

- Build a campground! Drape sheet or blanket over a card table or some chairs for a tent. You can also buy a pop-up tent. Put a few cushions, a sleeping bag, a battery operated light, and some books and you have a cozy little private corner void of distractions!
- A Large appliance box makes a nifty room-within-a-room. Cut off the top and line the bottom with a carpet scrap and some old pillows. This will feel like a special reading cabin or cave.
- Create a jungle or woods with a circle of large houseplants. What better place to read animal and nature stories?
- If your household already feels like a campground or jungle, head for the one room with guaranteed privacy—the bathroom! Load the bathtub up with pillows and let a child or two “test the waters” with a magazine or book. 😊

While a comfortable chair will often do, a special place that inspires the imagination may also inspire your children to settle in for a good long read.