

Greatest Gift: The Love of Reading

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Reading to and with your child is one of the greatest gifts that you as a parent can give!

Numerous studies have shown that parents who read to and with their child improve the child's academic success. Yes, academic success is important but what is also important is the love of reading that you can instill in your child and the opportunities it creates to discuss and connect with your child.

Everyone's life is filled with obligations, commitments and responsibilities. Finding ten to fifteen minutes to read to and with your child regardless of their age is time well spent. The format is not important. You can read books, magazines, comic books, graphic novels, or newspapers. You can read from the print format or the digital format (ebooks, eResources, blogs, etc.). You can read entire books, articles, poems, letters, etc. You can listen together to audio books. What **is** important is that you and your child share this experience. Reading can be a personal experience but it can also be a social experience.

The benefits are many. Think about the:

-  **enjoyment** it provides you. This enjoyment of reading serves also as a model for your child.
-  **avenues** it opens to you to explore and share information about you and your child's interests.
-  **adventure** that you and your child can embark upon as you travel and visit places and times that are not humanly possible.
-  **opportunities** it presents to discuss life lessons. It offers a starting point for a discussion on topics that might be otherwise difficult to broach.
-  **environment** it affords you to focus on your child with no distraction.

Reading to and with your child can cost you nothing but time. The reading materials are available through your school and public libraries. Hearing school librarians and teachers read great books and other materials is important to your child's development and success. But you as the parent, regardless of gender, make the greatest impact.

Please give your child that gift! Read to and with your child every day!



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