

# Supporting Common Core State Standards

## Instill a love of reading in your child

The Common Core State Standards will require students to read more complex material in school, exposing many of them to text that is not within their comfort zone. The best way to prepare children for this change is to help them build strong reading skills. But experts say that to strengthen reading abilities, children must *want* to read. And unfortunately, many just aren't interested. Here's how you can help instill a love of reading in your child:

### Create a reading nook

Does your child have a special place to read at home? Set up a cozy spot with pillows and stock it with reading materials. Make sure it is free of distractions and has good lighting to prevent eye strain.

### Consider interests

Help your child find reading materials that she will enjoy by focusing on her interests. What does she like to do? Does she have a hobby or play a sport? Look for books based on movies your child loves. Ask the librarian for recommendations, too.



### Make time for reading

If reading every day feels impossible for your family:

- **Reduce TV time** and have reading time instead.
- **Read something aloud** at the dinner table and then discuss it as a family.
- **Set a regular bedtime**—with at least 15 minutes built in for reading.
- **Schedule a weekly library visit.** Encourage your child to check out books and check some out for yourself, too.

### Keep reading materials handy

Make it possible for your child to read anytime, anywhere. Bring books and magazines in the car, as you run errands, into doctors' offices and any place where you expect long waits.

### Read aloud

Reading aloud is one of the best ways to motivate even the most reluctant readers. Choose books that interest you and your child. Read with expression. Ask your child to read to you, too.

When you are finished, talk about what you read. Has your child ever faced a situation like the one in the book? Does the main character remind him of someone he knows?

As your child gets older, continue to make reading aloud a normal part of family life. Share magazine articles, online news articles, letters or pages from a book.

### Be a reading role model

No one has more influence on your child than you. Show her that reading is fun by letting her see you reading every day. Talk about books and writers that you love. Say things like, "This plot is so exciting," and "I can't wait to start this author's new book!"