It’s easy to create your child’s interest in reading if you take the time and energy to show how important it is to you. The first thing you need to do is to create a comfortable spot for reading. If the weather’s nice, create a fort under a tree in your backyard or make a separate book nook with good lighting and several pillows. Ask your kids about their interests and use those to fill your reading area with books, newspapers, and magazines. From wizards to trucks and dinosaurs, there are titles that meet every child’s interests.

Set aside some time every day for reading. As little as ten minutes will build a love of reading. Making it part of your everyday schedule by carving out the same time every day, Whether it’s right after dinner or right before bed, make sure everyone drops what they’re doing and reads!

Be sure to discuss the books you read with your child. Not only right after you read it, but at different times during the day. For instance, when you’re in a jam, ask your child what the character in your book would do. Show how you love to read by discussing books that you are reading, too!

Keep it cheap by visiting your local library to bring new reading materials to your home. Set up a trading network with friends or buy from used book stores to help keep the cost down.

Tips on Reading Books to Your Child
Reading a book out loud to your child can be a little scary. With these tips, you can make it a lot of fun for both you and your child!

- Be animated. This is your chance to act up!
- Use different voices and facial expressions as you read.
- Choose books that use word repetition, rhymes, and predictable text. See if your child can predict a rhyming word or say the repetitive parts with you.
- Don’t be afraid of a longer book. A child loves to anticipate what will happen next! (When they’re thinking about a book, that’s a sure sign that they like the book!)
- Reread your child’s favorite book.

“Families, and parents in particular, play an important part in the [learning to read] process. For decades, research has shown that children whose parents read to them become better readers and do better in school.”
ACTIVITIES TO DO AT HOME

The Pledge of Allegiance

Every day, your child recites the Pledge of Allegiance without really knowing what it means. After reading a book on the Pledge of Allegiance, ask your child the following questions:

- What does it mean to pledge your allegiance to the flag?
- What does the phrase ‘liberty and justice for all’ mean?

The U.S. Constitution

Children of every age are asked to understand the U.S. Constitution. These titles are intended to discuss what the U.S. Constitution is, how it was created and why it is important. Read the book, *The U.S. Constitution* with your child. To extend their learning, create a family constitution. Be sure to include what four rules you agree to obey and what happens if someone doesn’t obey the rules. Make sure you all sign it…just like the original!

Obama Family Chili Recipe

1 large onion, chopped
1 green pepper, chopped
Several cloves of garlic, chopped
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 pound ground turkey or beef
1/4 teaspoon ground cumin
1/4 teaspoon ground oregano
1/4 teaspoon ground turmeric
1/4 teaspoon ground basil
1 tablespoon chili powder
3 tablespoons red wine vinegar
Several tomatoes, depending on size, chopped
1 can red kidney beans

Saute onions, green pepper and garlic in olive oil until soft.

Add ground meat and brown.

Combine spices together into a mixture, then add to ground meat.

Add red wine vinegar.

Add tomatoes and let simmer, until tomatoes cook down.

Add kidney beans and cook for a few more minutes.

Serve over white or brown rice. Garnish with grated cheddar cheese, onions and sour cream. Serves 4.