

100 WAYS TO GET OHIOANS TO LOVE READING

Phyllis C. Hunter



Phyllis C. Hunter Consulting Inc.

1. Resolve that a love of reading will be your most important educational goal for your children.
2. **Show** you value reading rather than **tell** your children you value it.
3. Don't worry about scheduling a specific time for your children to read. If they love reading, anytime will be a good time.
4. Don't worry about making your children read only "good" books.
5. Search out books your children will like.
6. Be careful that you don't schedule so many activities for your children that they have little time to read.
7. Make sure that your children can someday enjoy classics by not pushing them too early.
8. Don't worry if your kids have periods in their lives when they don't **avidly** read.
9. If you have older children who already dislike reading, don't blame yourself.
10. Never give up on your children. No matter how old they are, they can be brought to a love of books.

11. Take your children to the library often when they are young and eager to go.
12. Take your children to bookstores as often as you can, and allow them to buy favorite books.
13. Buy up lots of cheap picture books at garage sales and flea markets.
14. Spend more money on books than you spend on videos.
15. Make read-aloud time fun for your child or teenager.
16. Don't read aloud to your children so much that they become too dependent on you for reading entertainment.
17. Help your preschoolers plan play activities that involve books.
18. When your children seem ready, play some beginning reading games.
19. Don't get hung up on the whole-language-versus-phonics debate.
20. Talk to your children about stuff and then find a book about that topic.
21. Take pictures of your child reading. My First Book!
My Favorite Book! The Funniest Book!

22. Read easy comic books to and with your children.
23. Be really enthusiastic about your children's early attempts at reading.
24. When your children start reading, buy them really easy books and comics.
25. If they request a book that you know is too difficult, buy it for them anyway.
26. Don't worry if your children love picture books long after their friends have started reading chapter books.
27. After your children are reading well themselves continue reading to them and continue to let them read to you.
28. Don't choose a nursery school simply because it teaches children to read.
29. Encourage the reading of series books such as the American Girl books or Goosebumps.
30. Recognize that avid readers tend to "binge" read.
31. Continue to encourage library use, but recognize that many of the books your children will want (such as the next book in a beloved series) may not be available in a library and will have to be bought.

32. Don't worry that books containing violence will produce violent kids.
33. Spend as much on books and magazines for your children as you spend on other entertainment and sports activities for them.
34. Recognize that very athletic children tend to be at higher risk for failing to develop a reading habit.
35. Encourage the development of hobbies such as coin or doll or sports card collecting.
36. Many children love reading plays aloud.
37. Allow only one video during sleepovers, and have plenty of magazines and comics available.
38. Don't worry when your children exhibit some quirky reading habits.
39. If your kids attend summer camp, send them off with piles of reading materials. A blanket over a clothesline makes a great tent. A flashlight makes a great reading lamp.
40. Try to find a house with a big shady front porch that you can furnish with a swing, rocking chairs, and a table for books. A reading corner will serve the same purpose.

41. Houses without porches can still have friendly reading spots on decks or patios, in tree houses, or indoors in special reading corners.
42. Try to live within walking or biking distance of a library.
43. Plan special rituals around book buying (examples: birthdays, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Martin Luther King's birthday, 1st books).
44. Look in specialty stores for reading material about your children's favorite activities.
45. It's especially important that fathers spend time reading to boys and helping them find books.
46. Keep magazines, books, and comics in the kitchen for reading during informal meals and snacks.
47. Realize that reading is messier than watching television.
48. Keep a supply of magazines, comics, and short books in the car.
49. Bring reading materials with you when taking children out eat in restaurants.

50. Take long train, bus, and plane trips with your children and remember to bring along lots of reading materials.
51. Give bookstore gift certificates as presents to your children's friends.
52. Encourage your children to lend their books to friends.
53. Return your children's overdue library books.
54. Don't worry if your children don't immediately read the material you bring home.
55. Don't give your children a lights-out time at night. Let them read as long as they want to.
56. Have as few televisions in the house as possible, preferably no more than one.
57. Resist getting cable.
58. Never allow children to have televisions in their bedrooms
59. Don't make the television room in your house too inviting.
60. If your children are watching lots of television and doing little reading, consider really restricting television or banning it altogether.

61. Don't feel you need to provide computers for your children.
62. If you keep in mind the pitfalls, a computer can help your children be more literate.
63. If your child is very late in learning how to read, arrange for learning disability testing.
64. Children diagnosed, as having ADD (attention deficit disorder) or ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) can also become excellent readers.
65. Older children and teenagers who read well below grade level should also be assessed.
66. If a learning disability is diagnosed, insist on specialized instruction.
67. A child with a disability needs more parental help in developing a love of reading.
68. Buy reading material that develops phonemic awareness. Also buy books with pictures.
69. Make sure your children with poor visual memories are taught to read phonetically.

70. Emphasize frequently to your reading disabled child that slowness in learning to read has nothing to do with intelligence.
71. Keep a close eye on how reading is taught in your child's school.
72. You really need to keep long-term reading goals in mind with learning disabled children.
73. As much as possible let your child participate in decisions about what special education services to receive.
74. Pay attention to your children's developing reading tastes.
75. Children also usually have a preference for realistic or imaginative fiction.
76. If you have a daughter who loves to pretend and play with dolls and stuffed animals, look for books with imagination or magic elements.
77. If your daughter is more down-to-earth and is very caught up with dynamics of her social group, look for book sets in the present that depict relationships more realistically.
78. If you have a son who is imaginative and loves good-versus-evil adventures, try fantasy or science fiction.

79. If you have a child who doesn't see much sense in fantasy, but likes good-versus-evil themes, try adventurous stories with realistic settings, or nonfiction.
80. Any book whose plot involves your child's special interest is a good bet.
81. Almost all children like humorous books.
82. It's important that children read about some characters they can identify with.
83. Don't be surprised if your children seem to change reading tastes.
84. Look for schools that allow their students wide choice in reading materials.
85. Look for schools that give kids time to read in class.
86. Look for schools that group students appropriately.
87. Look for schools with large classroom libraries as well as a good library staffed by professional librarian.
88. Look for schools with many other activities in addition to sports.
89. Don't pressure your children to be perfect students.

90. Don't force your children to read an assigned book that they hate.
91. Don't give children extensive help with long, complicated reading reports.
92. Publicly praise teachers who are trying to run classrooms that nurture readers.
93. Try to move your teenagers to adult authors.
94. Look for adults who write the kind of books your teenager enjoyed when younger.
95. When teenagers start driving, send them on errands that take them to a bookstores and newsstands. Mention that you'll repay them (up to whatever amount you can afford) for any money they spend on reading material.
96. Keep an eye on your teenager's schedule.
97. Be sympathetic when teenagers are experiencing some of the frequent ups and downs of teenage life, but also provide books that suggest ways of dealing with their issues.
98. If your teenager plays a sport, be sure to subscribe to any local papers that provide sports coverage.

99. Keep a perspective. Top reading skills should be your most important educational goal but not your most important life goal for your children.

100. Congratulate yourself if you're already doing anything on this list and pledge to try ten more within the next 21 days.