

Away from School

FROM THE RIF MOTIVATIONAL ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK

Since its founding, RIF has emphasized the importance of motivation in becoming a reader. Parents play a key role in getting kids excited about reading. These field-tested activities from RIF volunteers are designed to help parents incorporate the joys of reading into daily family life.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES



Baby Books

Talk about your favorite books when you were child's age and read them aloud. Show children photographs of yourself as a young child and share the stories of your childhood adventures.

Pen Pals

If you have friends or relatives in other states or countries who have children, have your children write them letters. Children can share ideas about a story they read, recommend books, or even exchange books by mail.

Lunch Notes

Slip notes or poems into your child's lunch box or bag. Personalized messages always get read right away.

Auto-Alphabet Search

During outings, ask kids to find objects along the way that begin with each letter of the alphabet. See how far into the alphabet they can go.

Word Letter Scramble

Take any word—the longer, the better—and challenge your family to mix up the letters to make other smaller words. Use words on signs, in menus, on food packaging, or the names of friends and relatives.

READ ALOUD VARIATIONS

Add variety and keep your daily reading session with your child lively with these strategies.

Trade a Page

Try alternating who reads each page, particularly if it's a book you've read together before. Offer help if your child gets stuck. You may end up reading more than half (to keep the pace going) but it encourages young readers to take on more of the text themselves.

My Child, the Hero

Read classic tales and insert your child's name every place you see the hero. Make new stories like Jonathan and the Beanstock, or Jennifer and the Three Bears.

Fill in the Blank

Read normally, then stop a few words before the end of the page. Ask your child to finish the sentence.

Hot Dog

While reading, insert the word "hot dog" (or some other silly word) every so often. For example, say "And then Goldilocks sat on the "hot dog." You will quickly be corrected, "No, it's a chair!" This game keeps eyes focused on the print, trying to anticipate the next "hot dog."