Print Motivation

Developing a love of reading, or print motivation, is one of the six early literacy skills that help young children become readers when they begin school. To be motivated to read, kids need to:

- Appreciate the pleasures of reading.
- View reading as a social act to be shared with others.
- See reading as a chance to explore their interests.
- Read for many purposes; from enjoyment to gathering information.

How can I encourage my child to love reading?

- Make book-sharing a special time between you and your child. Get comfortable and cozy!
- Let your child see you reading and enjoying reading.
- Visit your public library often.
- Let children choose the books they want to read or have read to them.
- Give books as gifts.
- Young children have a short attention span, so keep reading activities brief and fun.
- Share rhymes and songs that young children enjoy. Keeping books fun will keep them coming back for more.

Children who enjoy books will want to learn to read and are more likely to become lifelong readers!

Featured Book

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, by Laura Numeroff

With over a million copies sold, this funny story is a favorite of many children. Young readers enjoy remembering all the steps in the story and the joyful artwork of the boy and the mouse will engage readers of all ages.

More books to encourage reading:

(Birth to 2 years)
- Maisy Goes to the Library, by Lucy Cousins
- Peek-a-Boo! (Baby Face Series), by Roberta Grobel Intrater

(3 to 5 years)
- Llama, Llama, Mad at Mama, by Anna Dewdney
- Wiggle, by Doreen Cronin
- I Stink! by Kate and Jim McMullen
- Bark, George! by Jules Feiffer

(Grades K-1)
- Fancy Nancy series, by Jane O’Connor
- Edwina, the Dinosaur Who Didn’t Know She Was Extinct, by Mo Willems
More Fun with If You Give a Mouse a Cookie . . .

Math Connection...Count and sort different cookies during snack time! Talk about how they are the same and different.

Around the house... Make cookies with your child. Look at the recipe from your cookbook together. Talk about the directions you need to follow to make the cookies. You are building print motivation when you do these activities!

Re-Tell the Story...Inside a large plastic bag, the “cookie jar,” provide the following items: a bag of mini cookies, a small, empty milk carton, a straw, a napkin, a small mirror, a pair of student scissors, a picture of a broom, a picture of a mop, a scrap of fabric for a blanket, a little book, a box of crayons or a note pad, a pen, and a roll of tape. Show your child how to use the items to retell the story.

Fingerplay

Making Cookies
I am making cookie dough (point to self), Round and round the beaters go (move hands in circles). Add some flour from a cup (pretend to pour). Stir and mix the batter up (pretend to stir). Roll them, cut them, nice and neat (pretend to roll and cut out cookies). Put them on a cookie sheet (pretend to transfer cookies). Bake them, count them, 1,2,3 (pretend to count cookies). Then serve them to my friends for tea (pretend to pass cookies around).

Action Rhyme

Jack Be Nimble
Jack be nimble
Jack be quick
Jack, jump over the candlestick.

Ideas for different age children:
For babies, hold baby under arms facing you. On JUMP, lift baby up and over.

For older children, put your hand in a fist and raise your thumb. This is your candle. Place your fist on the floor. Your child can jump over your “candle” when it says to do so in the rhyme.

(Repeat a couple of times.)

What your library can do for you...
Most libraries offer special free programs for children. Storytimes or special events for your children allow “together time” with fun activities and stories. Ask your librarian about programs offered for families.

Books to Go From Your Library

This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. Brought to you by the Idaho Commission for Libraries’ Read to Me program and your local library.