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!

Book of the Month

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:

Early Talkers (Birth to 2 years)

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

Talkers (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

Pre-readers (Grades K-1)

- Fancy Nancy series, by Jane O’Connor
- Edwina, the Dinosaur Who Didn’t Know She Was Extinct, by Mo Willems
- Henry and Mudge series, by Cynthia Rylant
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. Then let your child practice retelling the story.

**Song**

*“Three Blind Mice”*

Three blind mice, three blind mice,  
See how they run! See how they run!  
They all ran after the farmer’s wife,  
And she cut off their tails with a carving knife,  
Did you ever see such a thing in your life as three blind mice!

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**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 and babies allow “together time” with fun activities and stories. Ask your librarian about programs offered at your local public library.

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