

10 Tips for Reading Nonfiction with Your Child

1 Smile! Your child is reading.

Give your child the right message about reading. Books can be a fun adventure that the two of you share.

2 Explore the fact-packed, fascinating world of nonfiction.

Nonfiction feeds young, curious minds. Plus, there's a nonfiction focus in the new Common Core State Standards.

3 Let your child choose a favorite topic.

Choice is a powerful motivator. Let your child pick a topic that interests and inspires him or her.

4 Ask and answer questions about the book—together.

Take turns asking and answering such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how. Point to evidence in the text that supports the answers.

5 Make connections—between words, ideas, and events.

Look for the rich connections in nonfiction text—main ideas and details, causes and effects, and steps in a process. For example, ask your child to explain the different stages an animal goes through as it grows up.

6 Help your child learn the "smart words" to know.

Use clues on the page or look in the glossary to help your child with important vocabulary. Often, a science word is defined in a surrounding sentence, or an arrow points to a picture of what it describes.

7 Remember—pictures can say as much as words.

Spend extra time looking at photos, illustrations, diagrams, and maps. Often, the picture helps explain the words, or it gives extra information that enriches the text.

8 Read about it. Write about it.

Build your child's writing muscles at home. Post favorite facts on the refrigerator. Or ask your child to describe in words what he or she sees in a picture.

9 Talk about books with your child—and make the conversations count.

Talking is thinking aloud. Help your child learn good habits of mind. Ask for details, opinions, and evidence.

10 Connect nonfiction with your child's world.

Nonfiction doesn't live just between the covers of a book. Take your child to a zoo, gaze at the stars at night, or study a bug! Have fun.



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Support Common Core learning with nonfiction!

To meet and reinforce the Common Core State Standards, schools are making nonfiction a bigger part of the curriculum. For more on how to bring nonfiction into your child's daily life, visit scholastic.com/discovermore