

# Encouraging Boys to be Life-Long Readers



- Provide a wide variety of reading materials in the home  
*Just as you like a variety of books to choose from depending on your mood/interest at the time, so do boys.*
- Encourage fathers to become active in their sons' reading  
*Boys **need** to see their fathers or other older men reading if they're going to see it as "relevant" to their lives*
- Encourage all adult males at home to share their reading preferences
- Model reading
- Set aside a daily time when everyone reads—turn off the TV, video games and computer
- Read to/with kids long after the lower elementary school grades  
*You're never too old to be read to!*
- Have reading parties for kids (Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Harry Potter, Boxcar Children, Lemony Snicket, Redwall, etc.)
- Purchase books or bookstore gift cards for gifts for kids' friends
- Reward kids with trips to the bookstore/library
- Take advantage of special kids' programs at the local public library  
*It's also a great opportunity to get reading selections from your Children's Librarian! ☺*
- Before or after seeing a movie with kids, read the book version together, then compare and contrast the two versions
- Provide a wide variety of response activities to books
- Read the newspaper with boys  
*Males tend to prefer non-fiction/informational reading over fiction*
- Support reading selections—never ridicule
- Always allow a choice in book selection
- Do not think of comic books or graphic novels as sub-literature

## *A note about boys' reading selections:*

*Your son's choice may not be your first choice for his reading, but the first goal **has** to be getting him to see reading as enjoyable. If you force him to read things he won't like, he's never going to **choose** to read, he won't read often, and there's more likelihood he'll struggle with reading. So allow Goosebumps, Captain Underpants, books on audio, comic books and graphic novels... they're stepping stones!*