

# Better Parenting: Help Your Kids Become Lifelong Readers

By Sonia Spackman

I read my first book "all the way through" AFTER high school! Because of this, I had a long hard road preparing for college. I am now a believer that reading strengthens and contributes to success not only in school now but also later on the job.

Reading helps prepare kids and us late bloomers for successes no matter if it is in hobbies or college, not to mention being better on the job and/or advancing in a chosen career.

So how do we motivate our kids to read for their own good and for their pleasure? Check out these ideas from the NEA (National Education Association) Magazine.

**Start with their own book choices,**

Kids are more likely to spend time in a book and enjoying it when they have had the chance to check out the interesting books that are easy to read and on their reading level.

Take your kids on a date to the Vernonia Library and entice them to check out good quality books they may be interested in from dinosaurs to superheroes.

**Build on their book interests,**

Be it music, animals, sports or hobby interests, interact with your kids in a meaningful way with activities to get your kids thinking, talking, creating and exploring their book interests. A good website aimed at children, including summer reading challenges and other events is [startwithabook.org](http://startwithabook.org). You could ask staff at the library for help or

activities they are planning.

**Make their own books special at home,**

Display books that will make your child's books special. If your child likes fish or the ocean get posters or have them draw pictures to put around the shelf or table where your child's books are displayed. If you are a low-income family "First Book" has several programs that can help to get books at little or no cost, ask library staff or go online to [firstbook.org](http://firstbook.org).

**Develop a time for reading,**

Provide a daily opportunity for a quiet time to read at their own pace. They will get excited about reading, gain confidence in their ability, and be encouraged to read more. Parents can motivate their kids to read and explore a variety of topics and fun activities. If you are interested in how families can help kids make summertime reading a priority go to [rif.org](http://rif.org)

**Organize a "play date" for same age kids,**

Make time to read with their friends, and talk about their books together and share their knowledge, so they get a boost and turn reading into a fun activity. There is an award-winning family program for children from birth to age 8 that helps families develop book-sharing routines that you or others may want to start in Vernonia. You can find more information at their website, [raisingareader.org](http://raisingareader.org).

**Seek out summer reading programs,**

The Vernonia Library always has a yearly summer reading program that begins sometime in June. Look for

coming information in *Vernonia's Voice* or contact Jennifer Moloney at the library 503-429-1818.

Also, Barnes & Noble has a summer reading program, "Imaginations Destination" where your kids can earn a free book, here's how:

Step 1 Read any 8 books and record them on the B&N reading journal.

Step 2 Bring the completed journal to your local B&N store.

Step 3 Choose a free book from their selection on the reading journal list at the store. If you are interested and want details and a store location go online to [BN.com](http://BN.com)

**Support your struggling reader, who isn't enthused about reading,**

Try yourself, or ask an interested relative, neighbor, senior - or maybe you can pair an older student as a reading buddy who reads aloud and listens to your child read thus opening the door for a reading role model to encourage and motivate your reader. Your child may ex-

perience feelings of failure and embarrassment. By building their interest and excitement you can motivate your child to accept help to focus on new reading skills. Rachael Walker is a curriculum specialist with more than 20 years' experience in children's reading, for more tips, go to [belleofthebook.com](http://belleofthebook.com).

In closing, book lovers of any age will say there's nothing better than reading a good book for enjoyment. No matter the weather - you can snuggle up with a book on a cold day or lay in the hammock in the warm sun and travel to another time and world without spending a dime or moving an inch. Sounds good for all the family doesn't it?

Resource: *Ready...Set...Read! Help Your Students Become Lifelong Readers*, by Rachael W. Walker, neatoday, Spring 2013, Washington, DC, neatoday@nea.org, Barnes & Noble, BN.com. Vernonia Library.

Jewell Memorial Scholarship Fund invites you to the **34th Annual Smorgasbord** Saturday, May 18th \* Doors Open at 4pm \* Jewell School

Helping Jewell students achieve their dreams of furthering their education!

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Interested in volunteering/donating contact Faith Samuelson at 503-717-2234 or samuelsonfaith@yahoo.com

Funds raised by this event go directly to facilitate scholarships to graduating seniors of Jewell High School.

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