

Help! My Child Won't do his Required Reading!

Reading homework is often the easiest to slack off on because it often isn't tested or graded. Often the material seems boring or hard to understand, and in today's age of instant gratification, dedication and diligence are not popular or often practiced. Literature and reading comprehension are important components of your child's education and personal growth, and should be nurtured. We've added a few tips to help make reading a rewarding experience for you and your children.

Be Actively Involved: The best way to keep your child on track and on pace with reading assignments is to be actively involved. When your child's class begins a new novel, borrow a copy from the library and read along with the class schedule. This way you can discuss the material with your child as you both progress through the novel. Your input may help your child to understand important concepts better, and make him/her more comfortable voicing opinions and asking questions in class.

Or

Read Aloud: Have your child read his/her assigned reading aloud to you while you make dinner or have free time. Realizing that you are interested or engaged will encourage your child to follow your example. If comprehension or vocabulary are problem areas for your child, reading together provides the perfect opportunity for asking questions and learning. As an added bonus, you get to spend more quality time with your child!

Make Reading Fun: Introduce your child to the joys of the public library. Make a trip to the library part of your weekly routine and encourage your child to discover books that interest or inspire him/her. Most libraries have a welcoming children and teen areas with reading programs or weekly or monthly contests to stimulate your child's competitive streak to increase literacy. Afterwards, consider finding a coffeehouse or café to enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and relax with your new books.

Designate Reading Times: Set aside certain hours during the week for reading time. Ban anything electronic during these times and create quiet, comfortable spaces for reading or writing. Children need both new perspectives and self expression; asking your child to write informal "book reports" on their personal reading choices can help your child process what they've read, while encouraging them to form their own opinions. A child who can process and express thoughts and emotions will be happier and healthier than a child who feels continually alone and misunderstood.