

# Growing a Nation of Readers:

## CREATING A BOOKJOY FAMILY

1. Even before a baby is born, begin buying books to share with your child or, if you're not the parents, with the new arrival. Books are wonderful baby shower gifts and new baby presents.
2. In appropriate formats, familiarize your baby with books, always making book time a close and happy time. Encourage all family members to do this.
3. Enjoy daily conversations with your little one at all ages. Gradually, build your child's vocabulary. Words are fun!
4. Let your little one see all family members reading to illustrate that you are a family that enjoys books and reading, a bookjoy family.
5. Gradually teach your child that enjoying books together is a special time. Talk about the illustrations and, as appropriate, ask your little ones questions connected with the books you're sharing.
6. Visit the library and bookstores with your little ones especially during storytimes and reading-to-pets programs.
7. Develop the habit of daily book time. Enjoy books together outside, before bed, on trips. (Monitor the amount of time your child spends watching TV, playing video games, or online.)
8. Share many kinds of books with children: rhymes, stories, non-fiction, and poems.
9. Encourage older children to read to younger family members and friends.
10. Celebrate Children's Day, Book Day! Since we value honoring our parents on Mother's Day and Father's Day, let's celebrate children! In April, annually celebrate Children's Day, Book Day, April 30th. Special hugs and special books day. Plan a book party with books as favors and/or attend a Children's Day, Book Day fiesta with children, books, languages and cultures at your school, library or in your community.



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