

SUGGESTIONS FOR CREATING EXCELLENT READERS

Excellent readers aren't born they're nurtured. As parents, it is our job to create the environment and provide the support to help our children, not only read well, but also LOVE to read.

- Realize that even seven minutes a day is enough to improve your child's reading. Twenty minutes a day is enough to turn your child into an excellent reader.
- Set aside a period of time for parents and children to read aloud.
- Post a sheet on your child's bulletin board, or on the fridge, where she can list the books she reads.
- Organize reading materials so children can find what they're looking for.
- Shelve books by subject, store magazines together and keep all reference books in the same place.
- Subscribe to one or two magazines for your child. Children love to get mail and they will read these over and over. Visit the library to find out which magazines are your children's favourites.
- While you're at the library get your children their own library card and sign up for the Summer Reading program.
- For kids who don't seem to enjoy reading, Asterix and Tintin books are the answer. Parents say these densely illustrated books work like magic for children who are having difficulty.
- Use family trips and excursions as a way of expanding children's reading. Read maps and travel brochures together when planning trips. Read street signs and menus in restaurants when you reach your destination.
- Cook with your kids. Reading recipes incorporate many reading skills. Cooking skills, like reading, will be used for life.

For more information on Family literacy and literacy programs in the Boundary, contact Lizanne Eastwood - Community Literacy Coordinator - Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, leastwood@thehub.literacy.bc.ca, (250) 442-2533