



# 100 Book Challenge®

*Linking Independent Reading with Effective Instruction*

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Dear Parents,

Did you know that children who score at the 95% in reading on state tests spend two or more hours reading at home every night just because they like it? We know that when children love to do something, they get very good at it. Children who learn to love reading become very good readers. Good readers are successful in school. Success in school opens the doors to opportunity later in life.

Some children don't spend much time reading at home. Often they think that reading is schoolwork and they only read what they have to. These children never really learn to love reading and often develop reading problems that turn into academic problems that can turn into life problems.

The solution is to be sure your children LOVE to read. Here's how to make sure that happens:

1. Be the Blocker for your Home Team: Insist on 30 minutes of family reading time every single weekday night. Block out TV, computers, telephone calls, video games, and other homework. For 30 minutes insist that all of your children (and adults, if possible) read books. Have healthy snacks and comfy places to snuggle up and read together.

2. Insist that your children read books they enjoy. If they are stopping to sound out words, the books are too hard. They can only pay attention to the ideas when they don't have to think about the words. Reading hard books is a sure-fire way to teach children that reading is not for them.

3. Do NOT test children on their reading. If you are able to read with your child, be sure to talk about the ideas, not the words. Laugh at the funny parts, wonder out loud about the information, talk about the characters. If you turn reading into a testing session, you will be teaching your child not to like to read.

4. Sign the logsheet so your children's teachers know that you are actively involved with the home reading. Even if your children already love to read and you don't think they need to keep Logsheets, please sign the log anyway. The children love it and you will be helping your school establish home reading routines by providing a good role model for other families. Imagine raising your children in a community where every family spent 30 minutes reading together every night.

Smart is not something you are. Smart is something you become. Reading makes us all smarter.

Thank you for your support.