

“As an author,
I’ve never forgotten
how to daydream.”

NEIL GAIMAN

6 Smart Ideas from Greg Johnson

My Kid Hates to Read!

Want to get that reading log filled out without the constant battles? Try some of these ideas!

- 1 Read aloud WITH your child.** YES, that counts! WHY?
- Hearing people read AND reading aloud to others BOTH help increase fluency (especially if the listener follows along with their eyes).
 - IF you WANT, you can read things to them that are interesting that are above their level. You can discuss the book and help with comprehension.
 - It sends a great message about reading.
 - They still love to be read to. I promise.
 - It’s a GREAT way to spend time with your child. It can be so much fun!

- 2 Have them read aloud** to their little brother, sister, cousin, neighbor, anyone!

- 3 Help them choose what to read** – books, magazines, comics, etc. YOU know what their interests are. Allow them to “quit” a book they don’t like.

- 4 Turn off the TV and video/ computer games.** Two hours a day is enough.

- 5 Put reading material in strategic places.** The sports section of the newspaper on the breakfast table, *Sports Illustrated* or Calvin and Hobbes in the back seat of the car. They’ll read it if it’s there and it seems appealing. Ten minutes on the way to Target and again on the way back knocks out a day’s worth of reading! If your kid won’t pick up the sports section at breakfast on their own, try sitting down with them for breakfast: “Hey, I noticed an article on some of the ways Peyton Manning is supposed to be good for the Broncos – let’s read it and see what you think.” If you don’t get the newspaper, print an online article.

- 6 Offer a “good choice/bad choice” at points of boredom.**
- “Oh, you’re bored and it’s another 15 minutes until dinner is ready? You can either clean the cat litter box, or get your reading done! I printed off a hilarious article I found online – why don’t you get that and read it to me while I cook?”
 - “Time for bed! But hey, I’ll make you a deal. If you want to stay up a little later, I could make some popcorn and we can read together for a while.”



Heidi Johnson shared the following rhyming advice:

*Follow your child’s lead
On when and how to read.*

Meaning? Notice when it’s easiest for them to read. Then suggest it at those times. Notice what they pick up when it’s laying around, then make sure that kind of reading is “laying around” for them. Allow them to choose whether they read alone or with you – whether you read to them or they read to you.