



Family Reading Fun



As we begin the New Year of 2019, it is a good time for families to explore new things and set goals for the exciting year ahead. With this in mind, consider igniting new passion with your child. Encourage them to be curious and try unfamiliar activities or learn about something novel. Take the opportunity to cultivate curiosity, to be brave in trying the unknown, and develop a broader range of interests.

There are many examples of goals you could set with your family. You could sign up for story time at your local library once a month. Establishing a bedtime routine that involves a new book each night is another idea. You could even make a routine of book discussions on car rides or traveling trips. Making literacy a habit is a great goal to set! This could include steps like book discussions at dinner, following a recipe for a new meal once a week, or making a weekly visit to the library. Find a way to measure your growth toward that goal, whether it be a calendar with a star or a sticker chart. Celebrate achieving those goals! Through setting these goals, your child may find a passion they never would have thought of on their own. Send your child the message it is okay, and in fact exhilarating, to be curious!

Family Tips



While talking with your child, try to introduce various topics they don't know about yet. You can develop curiosity within their world by modeling questions and having them ask questions too. Then, suggest that you can learn together by finding answers to these questions. When you go to the public library, consider looking up new topics of curiosity and interest by using the topic search in your library's search engine. You can always ask your librarian for help, too. By researching and reading about these topics, your child will develop a knowledge base and expand their vocabulary as a new topic is explored.

Another way to broaden your child's interests is exploring various book genres. There are many great genres to explore: Folktales and Fairy Tales, Mysteries, Realistic Fiction, Biographies, Fantasy, Historical Fiction, and so much more! Make it a family goal to try one book from each genre and rate them together. You may find an interest you never knew you had.



Book Spotlight



Using books can be a great way to spark conversation on topics like being brave and trying new things. A few titles to get you started:

- *My Brave Year of Firsts* by Jamie Lee Curtis; A book celebrating the extraordinary, everyday bravery of trying new things for the very first time.
- *The Thing Lou Couldn't Do* by Ashley Spires; This book depicts what a young child goes through when confronted with something difficult.

After reading, hold a conversation on what the character did in the story and how your child could use some of those same strategies when confronted with something new!

Technology Corner

Use the internet to take a virtual field trip which can help your child grow curious and explore new topics. Try searching for a virtual field trip to places such as The San Diego Zoo, The Franklin Institute, or The Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. You can explore the Discovery Education website which has many virtual field trips to explore!

Once you have explored and your child is filled with excitement, you can go to the library to get books to learn more. Once you have a topic in your head, the ideas just spiral off. One topic leads to another and the learning grows from the curiosity!

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