

MOTIVATING *Adolescent* READERS

It's not uncommon for middle school students to complain about having to read. But problems with reading are not always due to lack of motivation. They can stem from short attention span, comprehension problems, poor reading skills, peer pressure, and other factors. Be willing to ask for help if your child is struggling.

HOW TO CREATE POSITIVE FAMILY READING HABITS

- Keep books on tape or comics in the car for trips.
- Set an example for each other by reading every day. Choose to read instead of turning on the TV. You will be surprised how much your example makes a difference.
- Take family trips to the library or bookstore. Encourage your children to check books out at school. Support school bookfairs and other reading activities.
- Build your child's vocabulary. For example, use a new word every day, then have her practice using it in a sentence or a short story.
- Help your child get involved in a book club or discussion group — and try getting involved in one yourself.
- Encourage your child to read a riveting short story, an entertaining comic strip, a good book, a controversial sports review, etc. Offer a wide variety of reading choices.
- Explore ways to interact with each other by sharing facts, perceptions and opinions related to things you read.
- Learn to ask questions and share thoughts that promote "critical thinking."
- Respect each other's thoughts and ideas.
- Help your child connect to peer groups that require reading, research, etc.
- Be willing to get extra help if your child is struggling. Talk to teachers, PTA members, specialists, and others.
- Challenge your child to read the book before seeing the movie.
- Be willing to learn from your child, and express your appreciation for the gift of her knowledge and enthusiasm



You can
HELP your
**CHILD "THINK
OUTSIDE the
BOOKS" and
DISCOVER
the JOY in
READING!**



For more information or for workshops about effective parent-school communication and collaboration, contact NH STATE PIRC.



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