Some Tips to Encourage Beginning Readers -- Session 2

1. Switch roles
   a. Let the child teach you. Have the child play the role of the “teacher” while you are the “student” who makes mistakes sometimes; they will tell you when you are right or wrong

2. Share the reading
   a. Try having the child read one page or section; then you read next – taking turns; makes the “job” of learning how to read/improving reading skills easier & more fun!
   b. Montgomery, R. A. Space and Beyond Choose Your Own Adventure (written on two different reading levels by various authors)

3. Frequent library visits
   a. Take children to the section that matches their reading levels; Fairfax County Public Library has “Juvenile Readers” section for beginning readers
   b. The public library also presents challenges by NOT having a designated area for children’s nonfiction – interfiled with adult books by subject area

4. Other Strategies class discussion
Encouraging Readers & Reading -- SESSION 4

1. **Don’t discourage any form of reading.** All formats & occasions that involve reading are positive: cereal boxes, traffic signs, grocery products, comics, Internet websites, instructions for games.

2. **Role models are extremely important** -- seeing adults & siblings reading.

3. **Be sure books, magazines and other reading materials are available at home** - including books from school, the public library as well as titles selected at the bookstore and given as gifts.

4. **Take books with you wherever you go** -- in the car, to doctor’s appointments. *Choose Your Own Adventure* books can be fun to read on a car trip.

5. **Talk about books with the child** -- books he’s reading in his classroom and at home. Ask about the characters, the setting (where & when the story takes place), the plot (what’s going on), any facts he’s learned from nonfiction books.

6. **Consider extending bedtime** -- 15 minutes when the child goes to bed with a book or an adult is reading aloud.

7. **Read books aloud to the child from very early on** -- and continue as they get older with books like *Charlotte’s Web, Harry Potter & Treasure Island*.

8. **Visit the public library often** and be sure the child has plenty of time to browse and select books on her own (while the adult is looking for their own books).
   - attend children’s programs
   - sign up for Summer Reading Programs & save those reading logs

9. **Attend local literary events:**
   - *National Book Festival* in D.C. every September
   - *Fall for the Book* at George Mason University in September
   - author visits & celebrations at local bookstores & libraries
     - Jane O’Connor appeared at Fairfax Borders in December
     - Borders also had a Fancy Nancy Tea Party in November