

F400 Beyond Little Golden Books: Children's Literature Today

Instructors: Judy Baxter, Wendy Campbell, Nancy Davis

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

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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