

My Tryst with Children's Reading

There is a saying that children follow in the footsteps of the parent. Children pick up habits by observing and seeing what is happening around them and reading is one such habit that they pick up by observing. The trials and tribulations to make children pick up the habit of reading are plenty considering my experience being from a training background. Being an avid reader myself, I was always distressed to fathom why kids don't pick up the habit of reading.

My house is indeed a mini library and am surrounded by books all over. It is indeed a necessary accessory as important as carrying a card in your purse. But both my kids run far away as they can to pick a book and read, be it as simple a book as any scholastic, for they haven't read a quintessential fairy tales.

I followed in the footsteps of my grandparents every night as I heard their stories and that was a ritual all through my growing up years. I had used this experience to tell my children a lot of stories during their growing up too. As they are grown up but still look up to me to share a story especially during a weekend.

I tried to make the read interesting by showcasing different picture books and reading them loud and at times even imitate a character in the book. Well, from this endeavour, they have learnt the art of speaking confidently but reading a book still remains distant dream more plagued with reluctance. However, my friend's children did pick up reading following through this routine.

The most enthusiastic trip would be a trip to a bookstore or a library giving an opportunity to my children to relive the memories of gaining familiarity of all the book titles or cover pages of the books that I have read. So, this effort has enabled them help me buy books so I could read but never wanted me to pick a book for them instead.

Pandemic, this year has been a blessing to the family. With a lot of time at hand, we have explored talking of many things especially about authors and I started a book club for kids with both my children involved to aid and assist me run through. This has given me the right opportunity to understand and appreciate their love to hear the books being read instead than read them. So, I subscribed to audible.

So, my suggestion to all the parents struggling with the kids to garner interest into reading first would be to sit to understand and reason into the case.

Like most common problems, your child might be living with reading as a burden and making it fun and introducing them to make reading a blurb and entail them to guess the story is all about. To obviate a difficulty to read as they don't know how to read or do get stuck with vocabulary, as kids remain enthusiastic, so introduce them to world of contextual clues or cloze passages.

May be the child hasn't found the right book or the genre, so introduce them to a local library or online one as well, to let them experiment with different genre and see which one is to their liking to pick those books. Book clubs also work well for them as they do get a chance to interact with other children to understand and discuss various books too.

As reading is lamented as boredom making it difficult to manage and handle. My advice would be to introducing them to those books that have been made into movies or a series. As you discuss having been part of this exercise, you would be slowly inculcating the habit with reading it out to them from the same book taking turns to the audible, as well.

Make reading fun time and once that discovery has been achieved, they will simply be fish to water.

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