

# Reading Routines for the Older Kids

As our children get older, it's important to continue reinforcing the reading habit, especially since there are so many more distractions in their lives. It's at this time, especially, that reading can become a familiar, comforting friend.

- ❖ Newspaper Reading Middle and high school children are becoming independent and want to share their unique observations and opinions. Encourage your maturing learner to read one newspaper article a week, clip it out, and bring it to the dinner table for discussion. Allow them to share their views and guide them to reference facts to support their assertions.
- ❖ Holiday Book Basket Start collecting holiday books when your children are younger, and keep them in a box or basket that you only take out during that holiday. Each year, purchase or borrow a new book to add to the collection. No matter how old your children get, they will continue to look forward to re-reading the stories they have heard over the years. Task them with selecting new stories and maintaining the collection as well.
- ❖ Pet Shelter Reading Looking for a great volunteer opportunity that involves canines and reading? Many pet shelters allow children to spend time with their lonely residents and read to them, thus giving the pups some much-needed human interaction. It's a "win-win" because your child is getting in his or her reading practice as well!
- ❖ Outside Office - Take advantage of a nice day and have your child work (academically) outside. Place a folding table and chair outside or use the patio furniture. Let your child set up his outdoor desk with books, pencils, paper, post-its, notebooks, or any other office supplies. Encourage him to read while at his desk and take notes or write a summary in his notebook.
- ❖ Book Store Reading Many older children are open to reading more when visiting a book store. It may be the relaxed, café-like atmosphere, the huge variety of reading material, or maybe it's the muffins! All kidding aside, a weekly visit to the bookstore often entuses uninspired or reluctant readers to squeeze in some extra text time.



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- ❖ Book Clubs Organizing or participating in a book club is a great way for older children to connect with their peers in a meaningful way. Vary the meeting locations to maintain interest and excitement.
- ❖ Library Buddy Reading Young children adore teens. Encourage your child to volunteer to read to the little ones during early literacy programs at your local library.
- ❖ Free books Who doesn't love getting something for free? Most local libraries frequently purge a certain percentage of their books to make room for new additions to their shelves. Quite often, they offer these books to library visitors for free. Watch for announcements of these events on their website. Kids (and parents) love to receive something for nothing!
- ❖ Beach or Park Reads Pack a tote bag of some favorite books and head to a local beach or park for some outdoor reading time. This is fun to do with friends or family!
- ❖ Book Recommendations It feels great when your advice is acknowledged, or better yet, followed! Give your older reader permission to set up a Goodreads account listing his or her book recommendations and reviews.
- ❖ Reading Room - A fantastic way to show how reading is valued by your family is to designate one room in your house the *reading room*. There is no need to change anything in the room that you pick, but try to select one that doesn't have a TV in it. Add a pile of books and a comfy blanket, and make sure everyone in the house knows that this room is dedicated to quiet, uninterrupted reading.



Skill Set: Reading Routines  
Check out The Reading House book for additional reading routines and games!  
[www.readinghouse.com/book](http://www.readinghouse.com/book)