



THE HAPPY CHILDHOOD CHECKLIST

Adapted from How to Get Your Child to Love Reading by Esme Raji Codell

- Have your child tell stories to you.
- Have a family newsletter.
- Go to the museum.
- Make positive comments about your child's teacher or caretaker in front of your child.
- At the end of the day, ask your child about his or her day.
- Tell stories about grandparents and the child's family history.
- Help your child notice the alphabet and numbers in everyday situations.
- Help your child write and mail letters to people.
- Read and discuss the newspaper in front of your child.
- Switch the TV off during prime-time commercials.
- Take your child to the supermarket with you.
- Put notes in your child's lunch.
- Make music with your child.
- Take your child on a trip.
- Take your child to work with you one day.
- Celebrate lost teeth.
- Get your child his own library card...and let him/her use it.
- Take walks or bike rides together.
- Give your child unscheduled periods in which to play.
- Close a book before the last page and ask your child what she thinks will happen.
- Cook with your child.
- Say you're sorry when you make a mistake.
- Say yes sometimes when your child expects you to say no.
- Stay home from work when your child is sick.
- Listen to knock-knock jokes.
- Leave a night-light on.
- Look up an answer to a question with your child.
- Take pictures and put them in an album.
- Dance with your child standing on your feet.
- Stand at the bottom of the playground slide and applaud.
- Help your child get acquainted with nursery rhymes from an early age.
- Tell your child that you're proud of him and that you love him.
- Tell your child you love him even when you're not proud.
- Read aloud to your child.