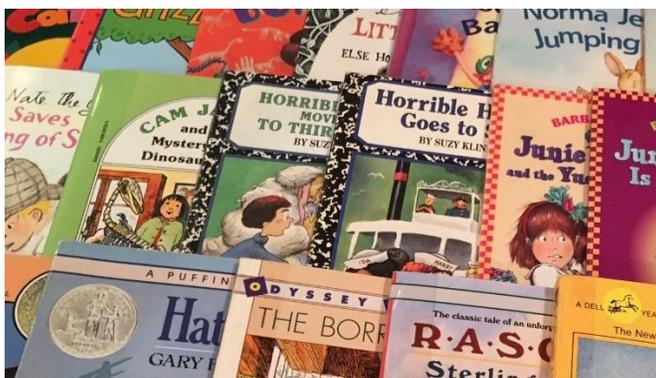


How is your child doing in reading? If you are like many parents, there's a good chance that you're seeing some struggling because almost 40% of kids have reading challenges. You're hoping for things to work out at school but what can you do at home?



4 Ways to Help the Struggling Reader at Home

1. **PLAY WITH WORDS:** Decoding (sounding out the words) and word recognition are at the root of most reading issues. Play games that help develop phonemic awareness (being aware that words are made up of speech sounds) such as making up rhymes, changing the first sound of a word, or guessing a word that you stretch out. You can do this as you make dinner together or are driving in the car. Go on a word hunt in a magazine or advertisement. Play word games in the car as you hunt for words on signs (in alphabetical order). Word games like Scrabble and Bananas can bring the whole family together for fun.
2. **READ ALOUD:** Continue to read aloud with your child, no matter the grade they are in! Take turns with reading the pages. Read with expression and enthusiasm. Ask questions about the book and encourage your child to ask questions as well.
3. **USE THE LIBRARY:** Make it a family time to select books at the library and read through them together as well as independently. Classic novels can make great read aloud stories that are fun to listen to and talk about.
4. **TALK ABOUT READING:** Ask them about what they are reading, not just if they have their homework done. Share what you are reading – let them see you read books, the paper, and magazines – not just scrolling through social media. Talk about what you like to read and why.

Remember that learning to read is a complex process. There are many skills that need to be developed and coordinated. It takes time so encourage your child that with practice and effort, he/she will be a better reader. Above all, if they need more help than you can provide, seek it out!