

Electronic Resources

Available for use inside your library or from an Internet-connected computer anywhere:

- www.goldcoastlibrary.org
- www.goldcoastlibrary.org/databases/subject.htm (*Tumble Books Library* listed under e-Books; *NoveList K-8* listed under Reader's Advisory)

Books

Find these in the Parenting Collection

- [Straight Talk About Reading: How Parents Can Make a Difference During the Early Years.](#) Susan L. Hall and Louisa C. Moats.
- [Growing a Reader from Birth: Your Child's Path from Language to Literacy.](#) Diane McGuinness.
- [The Struggling Reader: Interventions That Work.](#) J. David Cooper, David J. Chard and Nancy D. Kiger.
- [The Read-Aloud Handbook.](#) Jim Trelease.
- [Starting Out Right: a Guide to Promoting Children's Reading Success.](#) M. Susan Burns, Peg Griffin, Catherine Snow, eds.
- [Parenting a Struggling Reader.](#) Susan L. Hall & Louisa C. Moats.
- [The Reading Remedy: Six Essential Skills That Will Turn Your Child Into a Reader.](#) Marion Blank.
- [How to Get Your Child to Love Reading: For Ravenous and Reluctant Readers Alike.](#) Esme Raji Codell,

Websites

Public television and parenting information:

www.pbs.org/parents

Family literacy projects:

www.familit.org

Reading advice for the whole family:

www.rif.org/parents

Department of Education reading awareness:

<http://www.ed.gov/parents/read/resources/edpicks.jhtml?src=ln>

Information about children's books and author events:

www.childrensliteraturenetwork.org

Forum on kids and technology:

www.netfamilynews.org

Reader ability and text difficulty:

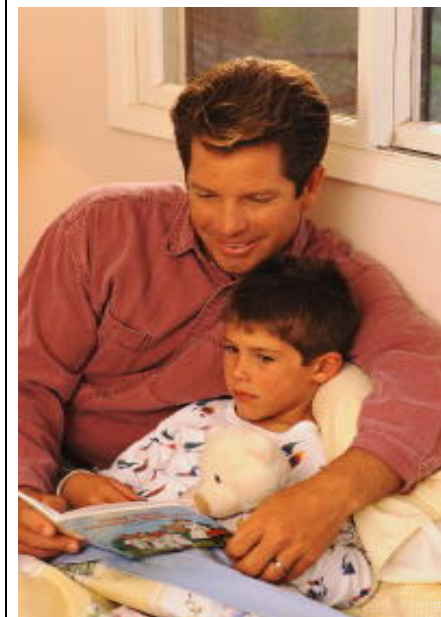
www.lexile.com

American Library Association's web site for kids:

www.ala.org/greatsites

Scholastic Books Reading Advice:

www.scholastic.com/familymatters/read/all/booklist_archive.htm#2



The Importance of Reading and Public Libraries: A Guide for Parents

**GOLD COAST PUBLIC LIBRARY
50 RAILROAD AVE.
GLEN HEAD, NY 11545
516-759-8300**

WWW.GOLDCOASTLIBRARY.ORG

The Importance of Reading

- A child's brain develops at an incredible rate during the first three years of life.
- Talking and reading to your infant or toddler provides the building blocks needed to develop language and reading skills of their own.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) strongly recommends reading to children every day, because it stimulates the development of the brain as well as language skills.
- Don't leave reading just to the schools. Reading begins at home and introduces children to the wonderful world of books.
- When children become good readers in the early grades, they are more likely to be better readers with enhanced language and comprehension skills in later years.
- Reading books provides an opportunity for parents and children to communicate on a variety of topics and issues. It is a parent's responsibility to monitor their children's activities, be aware, and stay involved!

How the Library Can Help

- Reading becomes more than a recreational pastime as children get older. Literacy skills can be learned right at the local public library!
- Every child should have their own library card. Parents may apply for a card when a child reaches five years of age.
- Start by selecting books that you loved when you were a child, and talk to your children about why you loved them.
- Create a special shelf, one your children can reach, for all the books they borrow from the library.

- Ask a librarian to recommend titles on topics that relate to issues related to your child's development.
- Be aware that many young people seek information from libraries that they are too embarrassed or afraid to ask for from an adult. A factual library book can provide accurate information, ease fears, and keep your child from harm. Just because they are reading about it does not mean they are doing it! Discuss what your child is reading, and keep the lines of communication open.
- Make visiting the library a favorite family outing and a lifetime habit.

Library Programs

Consult the library newsletter or website for a schedule of early childhood programs designed to develop a love of reading and books:

- Father Goose - for ages 12 to 35 months old
- Toddler Time - for ages 3 to 4 years old
- Books Before Bedtime - for ages 3 to 5 years old
- Book Buddies - for ages 3 to 6 years old

In addition, there are reading incentive programs offered during the summer months: the Read-to-Me-Kid's Club is ideal for preschoolers, and the Summer Reading Program, for those in grades K-5, keep children reading all summer long.

Library Resources

Tumble Books Library, an online library of animated books, allows children to "read along" while a story is being narrated. It is available on the library's website.

The Gold Coast Library's collection of pop-up books, available for in-library use, will delight readers of all ages.

The Parenting Collection, housed in the Children's Room, is a great resource for a wide array of topics.

Library Services & Staff

The children's librarians at the Gold Coast Public Library hold Master's degrees in library science and are specialists trained in children's literature. In addition to maintaining the children's collection of materials, they provide a Reader's Advisory Service for all patrons. They can suggest age-appropriate reading material for children and teach parents how to find detailed reviews of individual books.

Reading Tips for Parents

- Read to your child from birth. A baby may not understand your words, but will enjoy the sound of your voice.
- Parents are a child's first and most important teacher. Be a role model and allow your child to see you reading books, magazines and newspapers.
- Let your child know that reading time is special.
- Encourage older children to read to younger children.
- Give your child books as presents.
- Stay involved as children grow older, and preview the books your child chooses to read.

Selecting Appropriate Reading Material

- Publishers often indicate the age or grade level on the back of a book, which can help in choosing appropriate reading material.
- Some books may be suggested reading for older children, but a parent may choose to read it aloud to a younger child.
- Ask about *NovelList K-8*, an online resource that can help you or your child find great books, by searching for books similar to past favorites or according to a specific genre or author.
- Consult the book reviews linked to books listed in www.alisweb.org, the online catalog of libraries in Nassau County, to determine if a book is appropriate for your child.