

# MOTIVATING *your* MIDDLE SCHOOL READER



As a parent, you can do so much to increase your child's enjoyment of reading.

It's not uncommon for middle school students to complain about having to read. But problems with reading are not always due to lack of motivation. They can stem from short attention span, comprehension problems, poor reading skills, peer pressure, and other factors. Be willing to ask for help if your child is struggling.

You can help your teen enjoy reading by introducing him to books and articles that excite him, and by getting him to think and talk about the subjects he likes most.

*(Please see reverse side for Tips)*

*You can*  
**HELP** *your*  
**CHILD "THINK**  
**OUTSIDE** *the*  
**BOOKS"** *and*  
**DISCOVER** *the*  
**JOY** *in*  
**READING!**



**VIRGINIA PIRC** PARENT INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTER

[www.PEATC.org](http://www.PEATC.org) • Toll-free: (800)-869-6782

A project of the Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center



## **HOW TO CREATE POSITIVE FAMILY READING HABITS**

- Reading for enjoyment improves reading fluency, making it easier for your child to tackle more difficult reading demands from middle and high school academics.
- If the words are too difficult, your child may not enjoy reading. Ask your child to read a passage from a book aloud. If your child seems to stumble find a book at an easier reading level.
- Offer a variety of reading materials: short stories, magazines, comics, how-to books, the Internet, and audio tapes.
- Keep books on tape or comics in the car for trips.
- Set an example for your child by reading every day. Choose to read instead of turning on the TV. You will be surprised how much your example makes a difference.
- Build your child's vocabulary. For example, use a new word every day, then have your child practice using it in a sentence or a short story.
- Help your child get involved in a book club or discussion group — and try getting involved in one yourself.
- Explore ways to interact with each other by sharing facts, perceptions and opinions related to things you read. Learn to ask questions and share thoughts that promote "critical thinking." Respect each other's thoughts and ideas.
- Challenge your child to read the book before seeing the movie.
- Be willing to learn from your child, and express your appreciation for the gift of his knowledge and enthusiasm.
- If your child is having difficulties with reading, talk to your child's teacher for more ideas and call PEATC-Virginia's PIRC.

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*For more information or workshops on parent involvement, contact PEATC-VIRGINIA PIRC (see reverse side).*