**How to help kids love books!**

**Cold Spring Elementary School**

**Make reading a priority!** Put reading high on the list along with other family commitments. We know how important sports or dance or horseback riding and other daily activities are to a family---reading is just as important!

**Converse daily about books!** Make reading a part of the daily discussions about your child's day. Keep up with what your child is reading so the discussions will be meaningful and not so generic.

**Buy books for your children!**There is a direct correlation between the number of books owned and academic success. With technology, it is tempting to buy books on our devices and never hold a book in our hands. Nothing beats owning a collection of books and organizing them on a bookshelf to show the importance of reading. Go out, buy a bookshelf, and fill it!

**Present reading as an activity with a purpose**! Reading is a way to gather useful information for, say, making paper airplanes, identifying a doll or stamp in your child's collection, or planning a family trip.

**Treat your children to an evening of laughter!** Many children (parents, too) regard reading as a serious activity.  A joke book, a story told in riddles, or a funny passage can reveal another side of reading.

**Extend your child's positive reading experiences**!  If your youngster enjoyed a book about dinosaurs, follow up with a visit to a natural history museum.  Finish a book - then watch the movie on which it was based.

**Find a place in your home that is your child’s favorite reading spot!** Identify a place where he/she can read comfortably with little distraction. Put a basket of books near the spot. Include pens, crayons, pencils, erasers, and paper in the basket to encourage writing too. Every now and then, put a “literacy gift” in their basket to discover and explore.

**Read aloud!** Read a chapter-book before bed. Even to your child who already reads independently.

**Play word games**! Play games such as Scrabble Junior, Boggle, ABC Bingo, Word Concentration, etc. Tell jokes, riddles and limericks.

**Keep up on what he/she's reading**! Read a few pages of your child’s books yourself so you can discuss it with him/her informally. You could even read children’s literature on your own. Give it a try.  You may get hooked as well!

**Listen to audio books in the car!** If you're heading on vacation, or even back-and-forth to school, try listening to a novel that will appeal to everyone.

**Limit the Options**! In our world there are so many other activities that fight for our kids’ attention, especially those involving screens. Consider limiting screen time, especially during the week.

**Try Reading Olympics**! Institute family reading times (our version of Reading Olympics) where everyone sits in the same room and reads. If your kids see you read, they are more likely to be interested in reading as well.

**Find High Interest Books (or magazines or cookbooks or whatever your child might like to read)**! Not all kids have to read to same types of books, and some kids may prefer reading magazines or articles online. Use whatever works.

**Stick With It!** If your child does not take to reading right away, stick with it. Just like any activity, some kids take to it right away and others need to warm-up to the idea.

**Read On, Cold Spring!**