Fostering a Love of Reading at Home

1. **Read to your child** - This special time promotes healthy brain development and strengthens bonds.

2. **Read a variety of texts -** Picture books, story books, biographies, digital texts, how-to books, comics, manuals, recipe books, food labels, news articles, etc.

3. **Listen to your child read -** Take turns reading a book, comic, magazine, newspaper or other reading material together.

4. **Talk about the story -** This helps children understand what they are reading.

5. **Read in front of children -** If all household members "practice what they preach" and model reading, it sends a clear message that reading is valuable.

6. **Create a space for reading and writing -** A comfy space with reading materials, pens, pencils, markers and paper nearby will encourage your child to practice their reading and writing skills daily.

7. **Look for opportunities to use reading and writing skills -** For example, have your child write the shopping list, read the traffic signs, and name all the things in the kitchen that start with the letter *P,* etc.

8. **Turn off technology -** Kids often need extra encouragement to pick up a book and read or get pencil and paper and write. (Unless using technology to read or write)

9. **Write messages to family and friends -** Think of a family member, friend or community member who might like to receive a letter, text, email, or notes on the fridge, etc.

10. **Listen to music with your child -** After listening, talk about it. For example, discuss the meaning of lyrics, the historical aspects of the song and the way music makes you feel, etc.

11. **Make up stories together -** Take turns adding details. Start with "Once upon a time..."; "It was a sunny day..." or "Yesterday..." etc.

12. **Visit the local library virtually with your child -** Take advantage of book borrowing and other activities offered at our local library. http://ecrl.library.ns.ca/**.**

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