

# The 10-Minute Reading Toolkit

10 minutes. One book. No quiz required.

Simple ways to help a child become a stronger, happier reader—without turning reading into homework.

Small moments create big readers.



## 1 MINUTE BEFORE READING

Get curious—not correct.

Choose just one:

- Look at the cover: "What catches your eye?"
- Flip through a couple pages: "What are you noticing?"
- Let your child choose where or how you'll read.
- Make a silly prediction. Wild guesses welcome!
- Ask: "What made you pick this book?"

You don't need to ask all of these. One is plenty.



## 7 MINUTES WHILE READING

Read together. Enjoy the story. Follow their lead.

- React out loud.** "Whoa!" "I did NOT expect that." "That's hilarious."
- Wonder instead of quiz.** "Hmm... I wonder why they did that."
- Let them interrupt.** Comments, connections, questions, and giggles count.
- Share the reading.** Take turns by page, paragraph, character, or whenever someone feels like switching.
- Help without making it a test.** If a word gets frustrating, simply give the word and keep the story moving.
- Pause for something interesting—** not because you think you should.
- Skip the questions sometimes.** Quietly enjoying a book together counts, too.

There's no wrong way to enjoy a good book!

## 2 MINUTES AFTER READING

Talk like readers—not testers.

Instead of "What was the story about?" try:

- "What part would you tell somebody about?"
- "What was the funniest, weirdest, or most surprising part?"
- "Was there a part you really liked—or really didn't?"
- "Would you keep reading this tomorrow?"
- "Anything you're still wondering about?"

And sometimes, simply say: "That was fun. Want to read another one tomorrow?"

Good Books Brighter Days



## THE NO-QUIZ REMINDER

You are helping even when you aren't asking questions.

Reading together builds vocabulary, fluency, background knowledge, comprehension, confidence, and positive associations with books. A child laughing, wondering, commenting, noticing, predicting, asking a question, or asking for "one more page" is actively engaging with the text.

Your job isn't to prove they understood the book.  
Your job is to make room for reading to happen.



## WHEN YOU ONLY HAVE 5 MINUTES

Still read.

Forget finishing the chapter.  
Forget completing an activity.  
Read for five minutes, stop somewhere interesting, and leave the bookmark there for tomorrow.

Consistency beats making every reading session perfect.

