

10

Simple Strategies to Help Your Beginning Reader



WELLTRAVELED, LLC
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Helping your child learn how to read at home can be daunting, overwhelming and just plain exhausting. Working with schools, afterschool programs and parents, we hear this all too often and understand your pain.

We understand your frustration with the lack of efficient, engaging and easy-to-follow strategies to help your child become a better reader. That is why we developed **10 Simple Strategies to Help Your Beginning Reader**.

1

Read With Them Daily

Reading aloud to your child every day for **at least 20 minutes** is ideal. Use your finger to point to the words as you say them. Reading aloud to your child helps them connect the sound of the words to the printed text. Allow your child to read along; they may want to read to you as their confidence builds. They, too, can use their finger to follow along. Reading with your child fosters bonding and builds their language skills and vocabulary. Make it a reading date!

2

Ask Them Questions to Check for Reading Comprehension

Asking your child questions as you read with them allows you to check for understanding. Some books may come with questions, but if the one you are reading does not, create your own (i.e. Who is the main character? How do you know? What store did Willy go to? Why was Wendy sad? When did you realize that Willy was going to ask Wendy for help?). Asking your child questions will help you assess their comprehension and engage in conversation.

3

Have Them Read Books They Are Interested In

Allowing your child to select books that pique their interest gets their buy-in. You are more likely to keep them engaged and willing to participate if they have a say in what they read. If they want to read books about trains, dinosaurs, Japan, ballerinas or princesses, let them. A child who is willing is a child who is ready to learn!

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Have Them Share What They Read

Encouraging your child to share what they read with family, friends, classmates and even teachers (bonus points!) creates enthusiasm around reading and completing books. Remember the excitement that you felt when you presented during Show and Tell as a kid? Read and Tell does just that! Keep them excited and motivated!

5

Label Items Around Your Home

Using cards, label items around your home. When your child comes across a card, have them read the card aloud. In the beginning, you may need to help them sound the words out. With practice, they will be able to repeat the words on their own. The more words your child becomes familiar with, the better. We created cards for typical items found around your home and provided blank cards so you can create your own labels. Click the link below to download our **Willy & Wendy Label Me Cards** file:
www.well-traveled.org/cards

6

Have Them Create a Vocabulary Notebook

As you are reading, have your child identify the words that they don't know the meaning of. Help them define the words by using the text for context. Have your child write the word in a **Vocabulary Notebook**. Have them write the definition (preferably using a dictionary), then write a sentence using the word. Review your child's **Vocabulary Notebook** with them regularly and challenge them to use the words in everyday conversation. Take note in their notebook once they have demonstrated mastery of each word.

7

Have Them Make Flash Cards

Creating flash cards of the words that your child struggles with can help build their vocabulary. Have them read the words on the flash cards aloud and define them (if applicable) for 5-10 minutes every day. Use the blank **Willy & Wendy Label Me Cards** to do so. Click the link below to download the file:
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8

Have Them Sound Out Words

As your child is reading, have them identify the words that they struggle to pronounce. Help them sound them out and write the words on flash cards. You can use the blank Willy & Wendy Label Me Cards to do so (see Strategy #7 for link). Supervise their practice pronouncing these words every day.

9

Have Them Log Your Reading Activities Together

Holding each other accountable is important. Log the reading activities that you and your child complete together as they pursue becoming super readers. Be each other's accountability partner! We have included our **Willy & Wendy Reading Activity Log** to help you keep track of your activities. Click the link below to download the file:

www.well-traveled.org/log

10

Remind Them That Practice Makes Perfect

Reminding your child that as they continue to practice and stretch themselves, they will soon get better. The key is to be consistent and push through the struggles they may encounter. It is important that you correct them, while using words of encouragement.

Without putting into practice engaging strategies that help improve your child's reading abilities while at home, they may run the risk of falling behind and losing confidence while in school. By implementing the strategies listed above, you will ease your frustrations, develop a bond with your child and boost their reading confidence.

Begin implementing these strategies today! Tweet or tag us a picture of you and your child bonding over reading with the hashtag **#WellTraveledLLC** and we will feature you on our social media pages.

Twitter: [@_welltraveled](https://twitter.com/_welltraveled) | Instagram: [@WellTraveled](https://www.instagram.com/WellTraveled) | Facebook: www.facebook.com/welltraveledllc