Boost Reading Skills!

Kindergarten

- Read directions to your student when completing a project.
- Check out a magazine for your student (Ladybug, Your Big Backyard, Zoobooks, etc.) to learn about topics of interest to him. He/She will be excited about having his own reading materials.
- Pick a storybook character (Arthur, Strega Nona, etc.) and pretend that character is coming to visit. Help your student plan activities that character would like.
- Help your student relate read-aloud stories to events in his/her life.

Grades 1-3

- Check out a magazine for your student (Spider, Ranger Rick, etc.) to learn about topics of interest to him/her.
- After reading a non-fiction story, ask your student why he/she thinks the author wrote the story.
- Help your student create charts and posters about topics of interest to her/him.
- Read picture books by the same author (Tomie DePaola, Bill Martin, Jr., etc.) and compare and contrast them: How are they the same? How are they different?

Grades 4-8

- Help your student with the latest experiment in his/her science book. Talk through each step and discuss what you're going to do next.
- Pick a different country each week, and challenge him/her to learn a bit more about that country by visiting the library or researching it online.
- Encourage your student to read series books (Harry Potter, Lemony Snicket, The Chronicles of Narnia, Little House on the Prairie, etc).

Grades 9-12

- Read various types of directions (recipes, technical instructions, experiments) and determine the usefulness of the instructions to the reader's life.
- Quiz your student when he/she has a test. This not only reinforces his/her note-taking skills and study habits, but also helps reading comprehension.
- Encourage your student to talk about the latest book he/she is reading. Ask him/her to share his/her favorite scenes.
- Read classic works (novels, plays, myths, etc.) and compare to today's world.
- Read books by the same author, comparing and contrasting style across the various books.