

Reading role models can motivate kids



Lots of factors have an impact on children's love of reading, but one of them may be closer than you realize. It's an older sibling! Kids who see an older brother or sister reading for pleasure are more likely to seek out books themselves.

It's not just that book-loving older kids model good reading habits. They're also great resources when it comes to sharing books, suggesting new stories to explore and talking about literature.

To expose your child to reading role models:

- **Make reading a family affair.** Set aside a weekly reading time. Snuggle up on the couch, and read together. Include older siblings, cousins or friends.
- **Visit the library together.** After your younger child chooses books, browse the "big kid"



section while an older sibling finds a new book. No older sibling? Explore the preteen section with your child anyway. Point out the bigger kids browsing the shelves and reading in the aisles.

- **Involve the babysitter.** The next time you go out, ask the babysitter to bring along a book. Seeing how enjoyable reading is to the sitter may inspire your child's interest in it, too!