Beyond the Books
Tips to Get Your Child to Read More
Dr. Lakeisha Johnson

1. **Let your child lead.**
Allow your child to choose books based on their interests. Whether they like picture books or graphic novels, fiction or biographies, poetry or sci-fi, children are more motivated to read when they are interested in the topic.

2. **Make reading a family activity.**
Choose a time of day when all members of the family drop everything and read. Children often follow the models shown by adults and will value reading when they see their grown-ups doing it for pleasure.

3. **Keep reading aloud.**
Read books together, even when your child is old enough to read on their own. When grown-ups read, the mental space needed to decode is freed up and the child can focus solely on understanding the story and actively participating in conversations beyond the text.

4. **Introduce a fun series.**
No one likes a cliff hanger, so captivating series are a great way to keep children engaged and wanting to read the next story.

5. **Go beyond storybooks.**
Reading doesn’t always have to be a traditional book. Read through a recipe book to find a new meal or dessert idea. Find a children’s magazine to spark interest in a new topic. Try listening to audiobooks for a fun switch in your normal reading routine.