

# Pointers For Parents

## Helping Your Child To Be A Better Reader

(NAPSA)—There is good news for parents who want to help their child become a better reader. By taking a few simple steps, parents can put their child on the path to reading success.

According to Dr. Mary Mokris, reading specialist for Kumon Math and Reading Centers, “Parents need to set an example by showing children how we use reading in our everyday lives.” The Alliance for Excellent Education reports that students who read below grade level are twice as likely to drop out of school than those who can read at grade level.

Dr. Mokris offers these tips:

• **Make reading a family activity.** Start by joining your local library, making weekly visits and inquiring about story-time activities. At home, set aside time to read as a family at least once a week. Talk with your children about their books so that they will see that you are interested. Help younger children write their own story to read to the family. In addition to subscribing to your local paper, subscribe to magazines for your children that cover their interests.

• **Make your home reading ready.** Create a reading area in your house that has comfortable furniture, good lighting and, most importantly, books. Stock this area with books that your children will enjoy, such as how-to books, mysteries, comedies, reference books or even fairy tales. Reading is easy when the materials are immediately available.



**Create a reading area in your house that has comfortable furniture, good lighting and, most importantly, books.**

• **Do it together.** In addition to reading as a family, invite your children to read with you. For beginning readers, show them how to use reading in our everyday situations by asking them to help you read a cooking recipe, street signs, or the synopsis of a DVD.

Help your older children get involved in current events by discussing a newspaper article with them or having them summarize an interesting article.

Kumon Math and Reading Centers offers a free Kumon Recommended Reading List, which includes a range of 350 titles for any reading level. A number of books have multicultural themes. The list also highlights a section of books that are perfect for parents to read aloud with their younger children.

To learn more or to find the Kumon Center nearest you, visit [www.kumon.com](http://www.kumon.com) or call (800) ABC-MATH.