

# Catapult Learning

*Improving Student Performance since 1976*

## Who We Are and What We Do

Catapult Learning is the leading provider of educational services to public, private and religious schools nationwide.

**For more than 35 years**, Catapult Learning has partnered with private and religious schools to provide educational support services that meet a wide variety of student needs.

**Catapult Learning** partners with districts to provide tutoring services to private and religious school students at no cost to you, the parents. Catapult Learning has qualified teachers who provide supplementary instruction in reading and math. Students receive personalized instruction based on their individual needs.

**Instructional Services:** Catapult Learning's instructional programs are designed to improve student achievement among low-performing students. Our research-based programs are aligned to the National Reading Panel, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and Common Core standards. Each instructional program integrates an effective combination of:

- Individualized assessment
- Small groups with direct instruction
- Guided and independent practice
- Student motivation

**Parent Involvement:** Our parent involvement services include opportunities to participate in our instructional programs, workshops, and parent/child home activities. All of our services are designed to foster parents' ability to support their children's learning. Parents can look forward to:

- Progress reports sent home several times a year
- Monthly Newsletters with exciting activities and resources for the whole family
- Parent meetings / workshops offered at least once a year
- Catapult teachers available to offer support and encouragement through parent-teacher conferences

## How Parents Can Encourage Teens to Read

By *Reading Is Fundamental* (2008)

You know that reading is important, and you obviously want to make sure that your teenager grows into adulthood with all the skills he or she needs to succeed. The following is a list of ways to encourage your teens to read.

1. **Set an example.** Let your teenager see you reading for pleasure.
2. **Furnish your home with a variety of reading materials.** Display books, magazines, and newspapers. Check to see which materials interest your teenager.
3. **Give teens an opportunity to choose the books they would like to read with your guidance.** When you and your teen are out together, browse in a bookstore or library and discuss which books interest them. A bookstore gift certificate is a nice way of letting them make a choice.
4. **Build on your teen's interests.** Look for books and articles that feature their favorite sports teams, rock stars, hobbies, or TV shows. Give a gift subscription to a special interest magazine.
5. **View pleasure reading as a value in itself.** Almost anything your youngsters read—including the Sunday comics—helps build reading skills.
6. **Read some books written for teens.** Young adult novels can give you valuable insights into the concerns and pressures felt by teenagers. You may find that these books provide a neutral ground on which to talk about sensitive subjects.
7. **Make reading aloud a natural part of family life.** Share an article you clipped from the paper, a poem, or a letter—without turning it into a lesson.
8. **Acknowledge your teens mature interests.** Look for ways to acknowledge the emerging adult in your teens by suggesting some adult reading that you think is appropriate for them.
9. **Keep the big picture in mind.** For all sorts of reasons, some teenagers go through periods without showing much interest in reading. Don't panic! Time, and a few tips from this article, may help rekindle their interest.

Adapted from <http://www.adlit.org/article/23399>  
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## Building Your Children's Vocabulary

All parents want their children to do well in school. One way to help your children is to help them build their vocabulary. Beginning readers use knowledge about words to help them make sense of what they're reading. The more words a reader knows, the more they are able to comprehend what they're reading.

Talking to and reading with your children are two terrific ways to help them hear and read new words. Conversations and questions about interesting words like (—The book says, —The boy **tumbled** down the hill.) By looking at the picture and asking how they think he went down the hill are easy, non-threatening ways to get new words into everyday conversations.

Sharing a new word with your children doesn't have to take a long time: just a few minutes to talk about the word and then refer back to the book or conversation. Choose which words to discuss – choosing every new word might make reading seem like a chore. The best words to explore with your children are ones that are common among adult speakers but are less common to see in the books your children might read.

Adapted from

[http://www.idonline.org/content/edextras/building-vocab\\_en.doc](http://www.idonline.org/content/edextras/building-vocab_en.doc)

