

Organizing your home-school library....

Determine which room in your house is the best place to read. Usually this is away from the kitchen or bathroom where books will get damaged. Consider lighting and comfortable seating. Put bookshelves in this room and train your children to place books side by side on the shelf spine out, just like public libraries to pro-long the life of your books. Heavier books should go on the lower shelves. Note: Identical bookshelves look the most organized to the eye.

Consider setting up a book shelf on every level of your home to encourage reading frequency. We keep a skinny one in our dinning room to keep bibles and devotional books to use after our meal time.

Mac-tac soft cover books or tape spines that are weak. Secure loose dust covers or remove them.

Sort your books according to genre or age level. Use colored labels on the spine if you want your kids to become familiar with literature genre classification and put books back where they are supposed to go.

Keep your public library books separate in two baskets. One for books you want to read and the other with books you have already read that can easily be used to transport books back to the library.

In every child's bedroom keep a basket or bin of approx. 20 books for them to read before bed or during a quiet time. Rotate these books every month, but keep a handful of their favorites close by.

Keep track of friends who borrow your books by signing them out with the date in a log book. Include a box to check once they have been returned.

Stamp or write your name inside the first page of the book. My custom stamps on etsy.com can make cute stamps with your family name or contact information. They are about half the price but take about 4 weeks to arrive because they come from Malaysia.

Once or twice a year, sort through the books that you own to evaluate and validate their future existence in your library. Recycle to make room for new books.

Keep track of what you've read with reading logs or reading Bingo pages. For elementary students, consider the Potter Style Book Worm Journal – A reading log for kids and their parents. For avid novel readers, Potter Style makes a mini log called "what i read" to keep track of titles to recommend.

Keep a tin full of bookmarks or recipe cards for novel readers to easily find. This will keep your books in better shape rather than being turned up side down and opened to save a place. (It's surprising what people will use to hold their page in a novel.)

For primary grades, books about books and book making are interesting. Eg. Jeremiah Learns to Read, Read Anything Good Lately?, The Best Place to Read, Margeurite Makes a Book, Max's Words. My favorite intro to poetry picture book is "Slugs in Love."

Young children need to learn book care rules, like: keep away from pets, and babies, read with clean hands, do not drop books, no food or drink around your books and do not color or draw in books. Make a poster about these rules. Older children need to maintain book etiquette by not folding over the pages, keeping books dry and protected during transportation. Ziplock bags in backpacks will protect them.

Keep a list of your children's favorites titles from the public library and for a winter treat order a few online from chaptersindigo.ca. Shipping is free over \$25 and your kids will be so excited to receive a package in the mail.

Just for fun, let your kids play librarian and scan books out at your home library. We kept an out of date keyboard, mouse and telephone to use as a reception office. We have a bell and pretend library cards. They practice using terms of genres like: biographies, reference books, fiction, non-fiction, mysteries, fairy-tales, poetry, historical or self-help.