Top Ten Tips to Help Your Child Become a Better Reader

1. **Read more!**
   - Make reading fun!
   - Read together every day.
   - Tell your child, “You are a good reader!”
   - You are your child’s role model. Let your child see you reading.

2. **Ask questions before reading.**
   - “What do you think the book will be about?”
   - “What do you think will happen to the character on the cover?”
   - “What does the title mean?”
   - “Why do you think the author chose that title?”

3. **Ask questions while reading.**
   - “Why does that boy look so sad?”
   - “What is that mom looking for?”
   - “What does ‘endangered’ mean?”
   - “Where is that train going?”

4. **Make predictions.**
   - “I think that she will win the race.”
   - “I think he will find the treasure.”
   - “I think that Keesha will tell the truth.”
   - “I think the hikers are going to get lost in the cave.”

5. **Point to the words.**
   - This will help your child match your spoken words with the printed words. Use this tip mainly on short texts with large print for younger kids.
   - For older kids, try placing a bookmark under a line of text and moving it down to the next line on the page as you read.

6. **Make connections to your own lives.**
   - “That dog reminds me of Hector’s dog.”
   - “This reminds me of dinner at our house.”
   - “Your favorite color is green too!”

7. **Make connections to other books:**
   - “Charlotte, the spider, is smart and helpful but Anansi, the spider, is tricky.”
   - “The Magic Tree House is similar to the story of The Time Machine because people are able to travel to other times and places.”

8. **Visualize and create sensory images.**
   - “Close your eyes and picture this castle your head. Can you see it?”
   - “Can you smell that grass right after it is cut?”
   - “Imagine how loud the fire alarm is. Can you hear it?”
   - “Can you feel that freezing wind on your face?”

9. **Reflect on the book.**
   - “Did you like it or not? Why?”
   - “Retell the story in your own words.”
   - “Would you be interested in reading more books by this author?”

10. **Revisit favorite books again and again!**
    - Studies show that kids benefit from reading the same easy books repeatedly.
    - Each time you reread a book you can focus on a different aspect of it.