

Bridging the Book Gap

Having a home library rich with books of all kinds is the not-so-secret tip to building book-loving children. Children who have few or no books at home are at risk for lower literacy rates. So how can you bridge the book gap and allow your child to have access to more books?

- Give your kids some “book bucks” then visit a used book store, a book sale or garage sale and let them spend every buck on whatever books they want – even if it’s zombies or fairies. Letting the child choose the books themselves ensures they’ll want to read them.
- Get a library card and visit your local library often. Children can take out 99 items at a time from the Calgary Public Library. There are more than just books, your child can also find audiobooks and movies based on books. Cards for children are free.
- Keep a bookshelf in your child’s bedroom, and keep it loaded with books.
- Keep a bin of “emergency” books in the car for those long delays in traffic or waiting-room visits.
- Have baskets of books in places where your child likes to relax – the couch, the playroom, even in the bathroom for bubble bath time.
- Happy hand-me-downs! When your child is done with his books, box them up and pass them along to another family with younger children. Find another family with slightly older children who are willing to pass on their gently-used books to your child. Parents have been doing this for years with their children’s outgrown clothing, so why not do it with books?
- Check out used book sales. Calgary Reads organizes a massive one every spring.

Find more tips, resources and products check out
www.calgaryreads.com

The logo for Calgary Reads features the word "calgary" in a light blue, lowercase sans-serif font. To its right, the word "reads" is written in a larger, lowercase sans-serif font where each letter is filled with a different color: 'r' is orange, 'e' is green, 'a' is pink, 'd' is purple, and 's' is yellow. The letters are slightly overlapping and have a modern, rounded appearance.