

EVEREADY®



Create a Secret Reading Hangout

When kids have a special place for books, learning becomes all fun and no work!

Most of us have sweet memories of forts. Even if it was just cobbled together with couch cushions and bathrobe belts, crawling commando-style through tunnels of our own creation was magic. Now, it's time to introduce your kids to the fun—they won't need much convincing! But here's the twist: Make it a secret reading hang-out where they can share favorite books, cloaked in mystery (or, at least, an old tablecloth). How to make the most of it:

Leave the "building" to them

This is the one time to silence your "Don't make a mess" reflex. Half the fun of fort-making comes from being able to take things around the house and repurpose them. Best bets: Cardboard appliance boxes, the large Styrofoam pieces packed with electronics, bed sheets, afghans, cushions, and pillows. Decorating the disposable components with markers, crayons, glitter, pom-poms, and other craft doodads will make kids even more excited about this special place all their own.

Stock up

While the structure will vary from age to age, what's stashed inside a secret reading hangout is pretty consistent: books, for one. Treat your child to a few new titles having to do with imaginary places. Once inside their secret hideout, kids often pretend

they are someplace else, so stories on that theme will hit the right note. The Magic Tree House book series by Mary Pope Osborne is a great starting point. Then gather magazines, stuffed animals, a flashlight, and snacks—lots and lots of snacks.

Light up the night

Any secret hideaway is so much cooler in the dark. Host read-ins after dark, or on a rainy day when you draw the blinds. Hang glow-in-the-dark stars or a strand of twinkle or holiday lights. Kids love reading by flashlight, which makes the fort feel even cozier.

Join the party!

What kids want most from you is to squeeze in there with them, laughing and sharing a favorite book from your childhood. Trust us, the memories you'll make together will last and last.

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