

While the intent of the reading log is admirable, according to research it can actually do the opposite of what is intended. Reading logs can dissuade children from reading (Nair 2014). My goal for this school year is to simply have students pledge to read and in turn, have you as families pledge to support and encourage their reading. I want your child to get lost in a book. I want them to be excited to read and not just see it as a chore that they need to accomplish as fast as they can, so they can check it off their list.

As a teacher, I do expect your child to read. We will log completed books, share book titles and recommendations as a class, and keep lists of books we want to read. We will also have time to read and talk about books together at school. My intent is to take the focus off of “timed minutes” and place it back on the joy of reading.

Here are some tips from “How Reading Logs Can Kill the Love of Reading”, by Andrea Nair on how you can foster the love of reading at home:

- **Let your child see you reading.** Lead by example. Pick up a book, talk about a book you are reading, and let your child see your enthusiasm.
- **Create a reading environment that feels comfortable to read in.** Create a screen-free zone with comfortable furniture for reading.
- **Go to the library regularly.** Ask your child what they checked out from the EP library. Take them to Schlow Library downtown, steer them into their age/interest aisle, and allow them to pick out books.
- **Provide choice and freedom.** What books interest them? Where would they like to read? What would make the experience more enjoyable? Learn about your child’s interests and provide books to expand their knowledge in those areas.

Let’s put the pleasure back in reading and help our kids become strong, interested independent readers who ENJOY reading.

Here are two articles (one mentioned above) for more reading if you are interested.

- http://www.huffingtonpost.com/andrea-nair/how-reading-logs-can-kill-the-love-of-reading_b_6020134.html
- <http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/06/are-reading-logs-ruining-reading/485372/>