

## East Bay Living, November/December 2005



### Do You Have a **Soft Spot** for Reading?

**W**HAT'S YOUR FAVORITE early reading memory? A cozy lap and special voices for each Dr. Seuss character? Reading straight through Charlotte's Web on a comfy couch? These early reading experiences set the foundation for a love of books that fosters success in school and beyond.

Reading faces tough competition today from flashy high-tech video games, instant messaging, and television. Here are some ideas to help soften the sensory overload and instill a love of reading:

1. Keep it fun at home. Kids receive reading instruction and work hard in school, so keep reading, writing, and talking with your child enjoyably.



2. Capitalize on your child's interests. Choose books of interest together, and provide them a journal to write or draw about their thoughts.

3. Be a cheerleader! Kids need to experiment and take risks to grow, so applaud every step (they only learn to read once).

4. Read to your child! Reading aloud together is a proven reading success factor, and should continue throughout the grades.



You can inspire young readers with soft, cozy, reading spaces where they'll want to spend time. The giant upholstered books pictured here from Big Cozy Books provide the ultimate place to curl up on a good book to experience an unplugged world with your kids by reading together. For more information on creating your own soft spot for reading, you can call 925-447-1582, or visit [www.bigcozybooks.com](http://www.bigcozybooks.com) ■