

## Q&A: LL COOL J Cool Reading

Grammy Award-winning rap artist and father of four LL Cool J is a spokesperson for JumpStart, a program devoted to building literacy skills in low-income preschool children. October 8 is JumpStart's annual Read for the Record day, when thousands of kids will enjoy the same book: *The Hungry Little Caterpillar* by Eric Carle.

**P&C:** Why did you get involved in the JumpStart Reading Program?

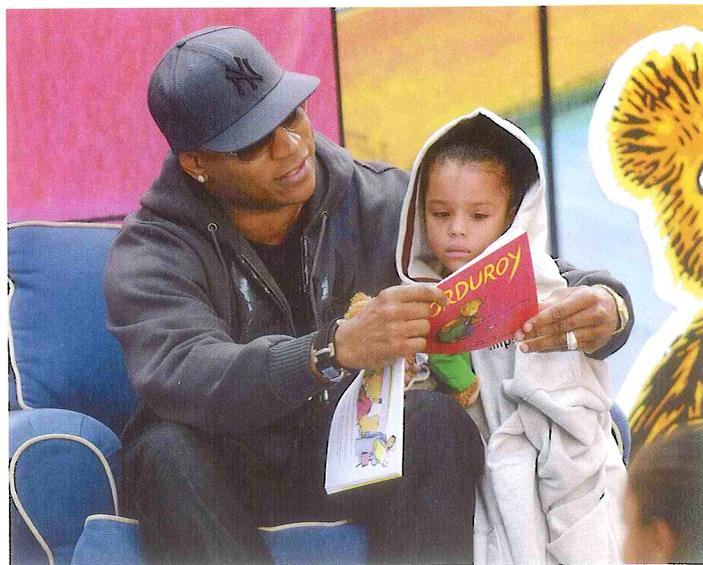
**LL COOL J:** Literacy is one of the keys to living a good life. It's important for kids of all levels of income to read more because it gives them a brighter future. Check it out at [readfortherecord.org](http://readfortherecord.org).

**P&C:** Do you read to your kids?

**LL:** I read to the younger ones, but they're all avid readers. It's a good feeling when I catch one of them with a book.

**P&C:** Did you read a lot when you were a kid?

**LL:** Yeah—I grew up in a household full of books, and I



know now that they gave me the courage, strength, and wherewithal to go after what I wanted as I was growing up.

**P&C:** Why is education so important to you?

**LL:** It gives you the ability to dream the painting and paint the dream. It's one thing to have an idea, but education gives you the power to execute it.

**43** percentage of parents who admitted **doing their children's homework** at least once last year. *Source: AskKids.com survey*

### BEST NEW Parenting Books

**Help—My Kid Is Driving Me Crazy** by David Swanson, Psy.D.

A book every parent should own, this sanity-saver lays out the main ways kids manipulate their parents and

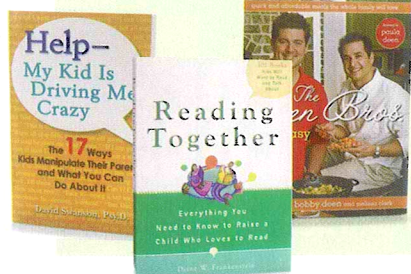
provides easy-to-follow advice on coping. *Perigree Trade, \$15.*

**Reading Together** by Diane W. Frankenstein

This great guide offers tips on instilling a genuine interest in reading, plus book-based conversation starters for tots to tweens. *Perigree Trade, \$15.*

**The Deen Bros. Take It Easy** by Jamie and Bobby Deen and Melissa Clark

Cooking runs in the family. From star chef Paula Deen's sons, these delicious, fast, and super-simple recipes are high on flavor and low on cost. We adore the kids' section with foods like Pecan Catfish Fish Sticks and Mini Macaroni Pies. *Ballantine Books, \$25.*



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