



# Family Law

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YOUR EX DOES!



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LAWYER

## Q

My wife and I have shared custody. Our youngest child is having problems learning to read. The school has told us we need to read with him every night. My wife won't do it. How can I make her do what the school says?

## A

Remember when you were still together, and you had two different approaches to parenting? Well, the short answer is that you both parent differently, and you can't dictate how she parents on her time, anymore than she can dictate how you parent on your time.

However if your child is not progressing, the school will advise both parents of other alternatives which cost money, such as Kumon or tutoring. Sometimes hearing this message from someone who is not your ex-spouse, is effective.

I would focus on what you can do, and that is to work with your child diligently and regularly, and instill a love of reading, at which point the child will read, wherever they are. My children struggled with reading and thankfully the Harry Potter series came along and made a huge difference. We started with me reading to them, and then they liked the books so much they read them on their own, and they haven't stopped reading.

The latest "new" rage is going to be the Artemis Fowl series, with a series of 11 books and a movie coming out the summer of 2019. The books are all written for children and fun for adults. Head to your local library or Chapters and take turns reading to each other.

A large part of parenting is showing your children what is possible, whether it is catching a baseball or mastering reading. A love of reading is a gift that lasts a lifetime. When your child 'catches' your enthusiasm for reading, your child will choose to read regardless of where he is.

Your friends at Shank Law.



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