



Early Reading Tips

Ages 3-5



Why?

- Parent-child shared book reading is the most effective way to help your child develop early language and literacy skills.
- Shared book reading also increases parent-child bonding, creativity, and the child's ability to express themselves.
- Studies show pre-K children with strong early literacy skills perform significantly better later on in school.

When?

- **Start as soon as possible:** even as young as 8 months old, infants' language skills improve with shared book reading.
- **How much should we read?** As much as your child likes. Try aiming for 15 minutes a day, but as they naturally develop pleasure for it you can increase the time spent reading.
- **Home environment:** create an environment for reading. Turn off distracting devices like cell phones and TVs. Try incorporating reading into the routine, such as before afternoon naps.

How?

Make reading a conversation

The most effective way to read a book is using [back and forth discussion](#). Go beyond the story by using these [CROWD prompts](#):

Completion: Allow your child to complete the sentence.

- "The cat ran up the ..."

Recall: Ask if they remember parts of a story.

- "What did the dog eat?"

Open: Ask opened-ended questions about the story.

- "What did you like about the story?"

Wh-: Who, what, when, where, why questions.

- "Why was the wolf blowing at the house?"

Distancing: Connect the story to your child's experience.

- "Have you ever been scared like the pig?"

Bring focus to text

Extra attention on recognizing numbers and letters helps both reading and writing.

Follow the letters with your fingers as you read them.

Ask questions about the text.

- "What letter/number is this?"

Point out letters/numbers.

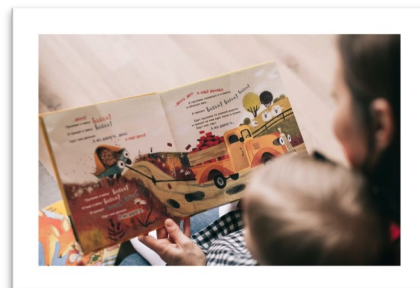
- "There is a big A on his t-shirt."

Use environmental text as opportunities.

- "There is an S, T, O, P on the stop sign."

Choosing the right book

- Find books appropriate to your child's level, preferably in your home language.
- If your child is not interested in reading, try a book that matches their interests or a lift-the-flap book. Wordless picture books can also be as effective.





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FAQ

1. What are some early literacy skills that my child should have?

By age 5, your child should be able to distinguish letters from drawings, identify letters and letter sounds, play with words and parts of words, scribble.

2. What if my child appears disinterested in reading?

Try letting your child choose their own book. Remove distractions. Asking them to read to a stuffed animal like a teddy bear can help stimulate their interest in reading. But remember, reading should always be fun.

3. Should I regularly be getting new books?

Repetition at an early age is actually a good thing. It helps your child familiarize themselves with the story, allowing for deeper discussions. As long as your child appears interested in the book, it's fine.

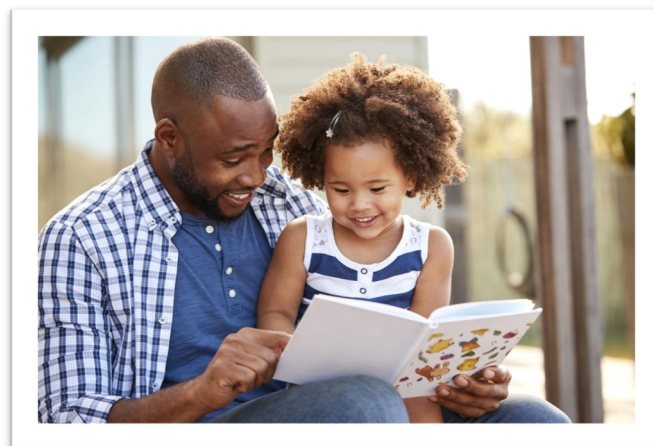
4. Are electronic books (e-books) okay?

It is best to avoid screen time in children under 2. Above that age, e-books can successfully help develop early literacy skills. However, too many electronic features (noise, lights) can be distracting.

Books

Try these free online sources for books:

- [Toronto Public Library](#)
- [Vancouver Library](#)
- [Audible e-books](#)
- [Stories read aloud by celebrities](#)
- [Children's Books Online](#)



Additional Resources

- [The Reading Bear Society](#)
- [Decoda Video Tips](#)
- [Children's and Young Adult Literature](#)
- [ABRACADABRA](#)
- [Reading Rockets](#)
- [Talking is Teaching](#)

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