



Reading to your child



Why?

You can make a big difference!

Shared book reading

Parent-child shared book reading is the most effective way to help your child develop early literacy skills!

The effects are life long

Studies show pre-K children with strong early literacy skills perform significantly better later on in school.

Beyond literacy

Shared book reading also increases parent-child bonding, emotional control, and the child's ability to express him/herself.

When?

Start as soon as possible

Even at 8 months old, infants' language skills improve with shared book reading.

How much should we read?

As much as your child would like. Set aside a few times a day specifically for book reading that lasts around 15 minutes each.

Home environment

Create an environment for reading: less TV and screen time gives more time for books. Make reading a regular part of your routine.

Make reading a conversation!

The most effective way to read a book is to use back and forth dialogue with the following

Completion: Allow your child to complete the sentence.

E.g. "The cat ran up the _____"

Recall: Ask if they remember parts of a story.

E.g. "What did the dog eat?"

Open: Ask opened ended questions about the story.

E.g. "What did you like about the story?"

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

E.g. "Why was the wolf blowing at the house?"

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

E.g. "Have you ever been scared like the character?"

Bring focus to print!

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

● Follow letters with your fingers as you read, and have your child do the same

● Ask question about the print.
E.g. "Can you find the letter E?"

● Bring attention to print.
E.g. "Where is the books' title?"
"Where do we start reading?"

● Use environmental print as opportunities to teach your child.
E.g. "There is a S, T, O, P on the stop sign."

H O W ?

Find books appropriate to your child's level. Also try reading advanced books sometimes for an extra challenge! Use your local library often.

Choosing the right books

If your child is not interested in reading, find a book that fits their interests! E.g. animals or space.

Remember to use both!

Story books are great for developing empathy, critical thinking, expressive language and vocabulary.

Informative books can offer a different set of vocabulary and ideas, and help children develop new interests.