



Reading Tips

Parents can make reading with their children part of the daily routine. Reading together in the evening can become an important part of the bedtime ritual. Here are some additional suggestions for making reading together a pleasurable experience.

Make reading a part of every day

Read at bedtime, on the bus or whenever your child needs a quiet break.

Have fun

Children who love books learn to read. Books can be part of special time with your child.

A few minutes is OK

Young children can only sit for a few minutes for a story, but as they grow, they will sit longer.

Talk about the pictures

You do not have to read the book to tell a story.

Let your child turn the pages

Babies need board books and help to turn pages, but your three-year-old can do it alone.

Show your child the cover page

Explain what the story is about.

Show your child the words

Run your finger along the words as you read them.

Make the story come alive

Create voices for the story characters and use your body to tell the story.

Ask questions about the story

What do you think will happen next? What is this?

Let your child ask questions about the story

Use the story as an opportunity to engage in conversation and to talk about familiar activities and objects.

Let your child tell the story

Children as young as three-years-old can memorize a story and many children love an opportunity to express their creativity.

Choosing Books

Children are excited by books that speak to them and their experiences. They love familiar sights and stories, but also love novelty and challenge. What follows are some suggestions of what to look for when you are choosing books for young children.

Infants 6-12 Months like:

- Board books with photos of babies
- Brightly colored board books to touch and taste
- Books with pictures of familiar objects
- Small books sized for small hands

Younger Toddlers 12-24 Months like:

- Sturdy board books they can handle and carry
- Books with photos and pictures of children doing familiar things – sleeping, eating, playing
- Goodnight books for bedtime
- Books with only a few words on the page
- Books with simple rhymes or predictable text

Older Toddlers 24-36 Months like:

- Books with board pages – but also books with paper pages
- Silly books and funny books
- Rhymes, rhythms, repetitious text – books they can learn by heart
- Books about children and families
- Books about making friends
- Books about food

- Books about animals
- Books about trucks
- Word books

Preschoolers 3-5 Years like:

- Books that tell stories and books with information
- Books about kids that look like them and live like them – but also books about different places and different ways of living
- Books about going to school, books about making friends
- Books with simple text they can memorize
- Counting books, alphabet books, vocabulary books.