



BRAIN BUILDING IN PROGRESS

Resources for Early Learning

Tips for Parents

For parents of children ages 3–5

Books, Books, Books

Children are curious and full of questions about everything in their world. Books can help you and your child find answers to these questions—and encourage her to ask even more questions! Finding books that engage and interest your child is the key to getting her on the road to becoming a life-long reader.

- Trips to a local or school library will give your child the chance to choose books on topics that excite him most. Set up a special box at home where he can keep these library books and look at them on his own.
- Concept books about numbers and shapes (math), colors and ramps (science), or letters and words (literacy) are a colorful and fun way to support your child's early math, science, and literacy skills.
- Introduce your child to different places and cultures through folktales, fairy tales, and stories about people from all around the world.
- Wordless books invite your child to connect to the illustrations and to think about the sequence of events in a story. "Read" a wordless book with her and take turns telling different parts of the story. Or have her "read" the whole story to you.
- What happens next? Flip through the pages of a book and look at the illustrations or photographs. Ask your child what he thinks will happen in the story. Then read the story and compare what actually happened in the story to what he thought would happen.
- Funny is fun! Find books that use humor and read books with lots of expression. The more fun your child has reading with you, the more she'll want to read.
- Grab a favorite book and send your child on a letter hunt: name a letter your child recognizes and have him point to that letter as you turn each page.
- Change the ending of a favorite story. Have your child choose a story. Stop reading a few pages before the end and have her finish the story. She may tell the traditional story ending or she may feel like making up a creative, silly or funny ending. Let her express herself and have fun!

(For a list of recommended books, see the Tip sheet titled "Good Books for Children.")