



Get Ready to Read

Your child's love of reading begins at home. Read together as often as you can every day. Make reading fun and meaningful so your child will get excited about reading and be prepared to learn to read on her own. By encouraging a love of reading in her early years, you will be helping to raise a lifelong reader.

- Make reading fun. Cuddle with your child and read books that make both of you smile and laugh. Take favorite books along on outings and read during transition times or when you or your child needs a break.
- Create a rich reading environment for your child with plenty of books and other reading materials. Provide comfortable, quiet places to read and try to have books in every room.
- Give your child opportunities to participate in the reading by inviting him to talk about what he thinks will happen next or what he hopes will happen next. Invite him to share events or emotions he has experienced that are similar to those in the story.
- Point out and have fun with words! You can act out action words like *hop* and *shiver* or point out objects that fit descriptions you read such as *curly* and *transparent*.
- Read with expression, encourage your child to act out stories, pause while reading to let her “read” letters, words, and familiar stories, or create a new ending to a favorite story.
- Use nonfiction books and magazines and digital resources to help your child learn more about the things that interest or excite him about the world.
- Introduce your child to how-to books, recipe books, and science books with simple experiments that will help her learn to follow simple instructions.
- Set a good example and show your child that you are a reader. Enjoy doing some of your own reading where your child can see you. (If you read books or newspapers online, your child may not recognize this as “reading.” Be sure to explain what you are doing.)
- Read books with your child in the language you feel most comfortable using.
- Read your child's favorite stories over and over again. Knowing what will happen in a story gives your child a sense of competence and confidence. She might even memorize an entire book and be excited to “read” her favorite stories back to you.
- Enjoy wordless picture books together. Encourage your child to be creative and take turns telling the story using the pictures. (See “Good Books for Children” tip sheet for titles.)
- Help your child write his own book filled with pictures. Ask him to read his book to you. Keep his book with other books at your home.