



How to Read With Your Child

Make it pleasurable.

Telling a story is a game. Take pleasure in reading together and show interest in this activity. In your everyday routine, try to plan a special time for reading. Choose a comfortable and quiet place with good lighting. Make sure your child can see the words and the pictures.



Show interest.

Show interest in your child's questions and comments. Show him that you are listening and encourage him to do the same.

Read yourself.

Read a book for your own pleasure. Your child will be more motivated to make an effort and to overcome the obstacles he will face when learning to read if he sees that reading is useful in everyday life.

Keep it short and simple.

Choose a book with your child that is not too long or difficult. Tell the story in your own words to help your child understand and keep his attention. Let him hold the book and turn the pages and do not worry too much if your child tends to move while you read. Try asking him a few questions to encourage him to pay attention. With children under the age of two, start with 5 minute sessions and gradually increase when you feel your child is ready.



Talk about the story.

After reading a book, ask your child what he has liked and disliked in the story. Encourage him to tell the story in his own words. Discuss the beginning, the middle and the end of the story. He will learn to make predictions and even try to solve problems when his favourite characters are in trouble!

Use rhyme and repetition.

Read stories containing rhyme and repetition to help your child become familiar with sounds and words. Encourage him to name what he sees and to tell the story in his own words. Congratulate him when he tries to say new words, even if he does not pronounce them perfectly. Repeat the word as needed to show him the proper pronunciation. Once in a while, stop reading and let you child complete the sentence by naming a familiar character or object. Help him find the small word he knows in a bigger word. This will help him develop his vocabulary and read with more ease. When your child reaches preschool age (3-4), begin pointing out each word with your finger when you read. Your child will make the connection between what he hears and the symbol he sees. He will understand that letters are written from top to bottom and from left to right and that words are separated by a space. He may also recognize certain letters and sounds.



Make connections.

Help your child make connections between the story and everyday life. Change the tone of your voice when reading to represent different characters. Let your child play one of the roles when he/she seems ready. Also adjust the rhythm of your reading and the volume of your voice for passages.

Make books available.

Make books readily accessible to your child and do not hesitate to read favourite books over and over again. Take your child to the library and let him choose his own books. If your child sees a book as his good friend, starting school and learning to read will be easier.

