

Reading in the Family



With Partnership from:





Reading Tips



- It's never too early to start reading to your child. Children from babies to pre-teen's enjoy and benefit from being read to.
- Read aloud everyday – make it part of your routine before bed, as you're getting ready for your day or any where in between.
- Choose a variety books with your child that they are interested in. Look for bright, colorful pictures and a style of writing that flows.
- Read with lots of emotion; be silly! Roar like a lion, cackle like a witch – if you're enjoying the book then so is your child!
- Look through the books with your child before you read them
 - Look at the cover and guess what the story will be about.
 - Do a “picture walk” through the pages, guessing what is happening in some of the pictures.
 - As you read, ask, “What do you think will happen next?”
 - After reading, ask “Did something like this ever happen to you?”
- Snuggle on the couch or have your child sit in your lap when you're reading — that's the best part!
- Remember to have fun! Make reading aloud your –and your child's—favorite time of the day!

Why Reading Aloud to Children is Important

Reading aloud to children provides many wonderful opportunities for both adults and children:

- Is a way to talk about new topics.
- Models reading.
- Tells children that reading is important.
- Provides new vocabulary for children.
- Expands the types of materials that they are reading.
- Sharing this experience can build trust and affection.

More specifically, reading aloud teaches children:

- English print language flows from front to back, left to right, and top to bottom in segments.
- Print is different from pictures.
- The words tell the story.
- The story is the same each time you read it.
- Stories have their own style.
- Stories come in many different styles and deal with fact, fiction, and different feelings.

Reading aloud also teaches children to:

- Expect the story will make sense.
- Predict what will happen next.
- Develop imagination.
- Listen for detail.



8 Tips for Reading Aloud to Your Child

1. Read with lots of emotion.
2. Don't be afraid to be silly and to use different voices. It's fun!
3. Ask the question, "What do you think will happen next?" and discuss.
4. Ask the question, "Did something like this ever happen to you?" and discuss.
5. Ask the question, "Have we ever read another book like this one?" Remind your child of the book.
6. Talk about the story after you finish reading it.
7. It's never too early to start reading to your child.
8. HAVE FUN!!!



Don't Worry, Be Specific

Are you tired of asking your child, “What did you do in school today?” only to hear, “Nothing,” “I don't know” or “I played”? If so, here's good news – help is available.

Something is wrong somewhere. It can't be the teacher – who ever heard of any teacher who lets children play in school ALL day? It isn't likely that the problem is your child either. So, WHAT is the problem? Why don't the children *TELL* us what they did in school?

The trouble is the question! We're asking the *WRONG* one! Try asking other questions and see if you get better answers. Many times, children have difficulty remembering because it's hard to start at the beginning. When they get home, their day at school becomes history. It's over and they go on to the next thing in their lives. Here are a few pointers to keep in mind when asking your child about school:

- Avoid general questions like “What did you do in school?”
- Avoid questions that can be answered with a simple “yes” or “no.” For example, “Did your teacher like your Show and Tell rock?” or “Do you have any homework?”
- Instead, get specific with your questions:
 - “Who did you play with today?”
 - “What was at the art center?”
 - “Tell me about the shape you are learning this week.”
 - “What do you know about fall?”
 - “What choices did you make at recess today?”
 - “What does 'Line Leader' mean?”
 - “What do you like most about school? Why?”
 - “Did you play house today? Who were you?”

This type of question gives you child something specific to answer. Talking after school is great way to engage your child and find out what they're doing at school.

What to Do When Young Readers Make Mistakes:

1. If the mistakes make sense, don't worry about it.
2. If the mistake doesn't make sense, wait to see if the reader will fix it.
3. Say, "Try that again."
4. Say, "Does that make sense?"
5. Say, "Did what you read look right and sound right?"
6. Tell the correct response.

