

FAMILY *time* TIPS

FAMILY READING

Reading can open worlds of enjoyment and learning for both adults and children. A love of learning is one of the greatest gifts any parent can give their children.

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD ENJOY READING

At what age should reading begin?

Long before a child has any idea about the alphabet, parents can prepare their children to be readers. The best way is to talk with them. This draws children into active interaction. Our sensitive response to them teaches them to interact with us. The most effective approach is to follow the child's lead. When a baby coos, we coo back. When a child experiments with words, we repeat the words back to them. Reading books to babies and young children is a wonderful bonding experience, and it can help improve attention and speech.

Make reading fun

Going to the library and getting to pick a book to read or having a fun place to read the book like a reading corner or favorite rocker are fun ways to learn about reading. When we read a book to a child, adding expressions and different voices can make reading more fun. If your child wants to linger on a page, taking the time to discuss the pictures or what is on that page creates excitement. Having the child point to different characters, colors, or objects on the page can be a wonderful learning experience.



Making Your Home a Place For Young Readers

1. Choose a quiet time for reading to your child, as in before a nap, bedtime, or after dinner.
2. Choose a special place for family reading, like a comfortable chair or pillows piled on the floor.
3. Let your child select the book for you to read aloud.
4. Hold the book so that she or he can see the pictures. If possible, also let her or him turn the pages.
5. Take time to look at and talk about the pictures. Don't just read the story: talk about it. Let your child point out letters, shapes, colors, and animals.
6. Understand that reading begins at home. Children read their environments, so make your home a print rich environment.
7. Read! If you read, your child will see that you think it's important, and they will think it's important.
8. Invite your child to read to you. They will often interpret their own story using illustrations and their imaginations.
9. Read aloud to your child every day.