

Reading with children

These ideas will make your reading time a meaningful time. Enjoy exploring books together. Also, encourage others who spend time with your children to use some of these ideas. Everyone can take part in introducing your children to the wonderful world of books.

Picture walking

Preview the book. Talk about what is seen on each page. When you notice vocabulary that may be new to your children, talk about it. When there is something in the book that you can personalize (bringing your children's experiences into the story), discuss it and make it personal. The technique of "picture walking" allows children to become comfortable with the story and vocabulary. By doing this, reading the story becomes more meaningful.

Reading aloud

Reading aloud to children is thought to be the most significant activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading. Read to children of ALL AGES. Read every day and more than once a day! Find others who spend time with your children. Encourage them to read to your children.

When reading to your children, stop to discuss the story and answer your children's questions. Take time to notice the illustrations. Children notice so much in the pictures! Follow the print with your finger when there are just a few sentences on a page.

Echo reading

When you are reading to your children, you may hear your children's voices reading along with you. This is "echo reading." Children use picture clues, rhymes and patterns, and they say what makes sense. Young children who cannot read a book on their own often "echo read." Use fun, rhyming, predictable books and begin to listen for your children to "echo read."



Fill in the gap

When you are reading aloud to your children, **DROP YOUR VOICE** when you come to a word that is very predictable (easy for your children to guess). Encourage your children to say that word. Continue to "fill in the gap" often while reading and rereading books.

Reread books

- Encourage your children to “echo read” and “fill in the gap.”
- Touch the words while you read. (Do this just some of the time. Always touching the words is distracting to the story.)
- Point out “key” words (words that are repeated often in the book and words that are important to the story).
- Study the “key” words. Notice how the words begin and end. Notice word parts. Notice vowel sounds that your children know. Point to some of the words and S-T-R-E-T-C-H them out saying and listening to all of the sounds.
- Add words to a “word bank” (words that your children want to remember)



Echo reading with familiar books

When you are rereading a book that your children are familiar with, read and DROP YOUR VOICE when your children are able to read alone. Join in with your children when they need help.

Since you are reading with your children, you are helping them keep a steady pace and helping them hear themselves reading smoothly. This develops fluency (smoothness) and CONFIDENCE.

Memorizing favorite books and rhymes

Young children often memorize favorite books. Then they can “read” the book to you! It’s fine that it is memorized. Continue to praise your children for “reading.” Memorizing is an important stage in beginning reading. Rather than calling it “memorized” say that your children are “reading!” This helps children to develop confidence and excitement for reading. If your children are ready to pay more attention to the words, then encourage them to “zero in” on specific words by using some of the ideas above.



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CLUES TO UNKNOWN WORDS

When your child asks "What is this word?"

Use these clues

CONTEXT CLUES (SENTENCE MEANING)

Skip the word and read the rest of the sentence for a clue. Then go back and think, "What would make sense?"

LETTER SOUNDS

Look at the beginning sound and ending sound.

Then look at the rest of the word.

FAMILIAR PARTS OF WORDS

Look for smaller parts of big words (together, snow-man)

SENTENCE STRUCTURE CLUES

What would sound right in that sentence? The way you talk helps you when reading. Example: "I w___ to the store."

PICTURE CLUES

Look at the picture. It may hold a clue for the unknown word.

GUESS AND GO

If you cannot figure out the word, guess and go. Say something that makes sense or just skip it.



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