

8 Ways Busy Parents Can Encourage Reading

1. Limit TV viewing to make time for reading. Even 15 minutes of reading before bedtime can improve your children's reading skills.
2. Surround your children with reading material. Tempt them to read by placing reading materials in cars, bathrooms,, bedrooms, family rooms, etc.
3. Encourage your older children to read to their younger siblings and visa versa.
4. Go to the library regularly. Give them plenty of time to browse the shelves!
5. Point to signs while you are driving and ask your children what they say, or simply tell them. Read labels and signs together while at the grocery store too.
6. Have your children read to you while you prepare dinner or fold laundry, or ask them to read to a pet or stuffed animal.
7. Bring books while on the go—in the car, to the doctor, to the store, to the babysitter's house, to relatives homes, to the park, etc.
8. Have your children practice reading skills on the computer (see website under contact info.).

Choosing a "Just Right" Book

To find a book at your child's reading level or a "just right" book use the Five Finger Rule to help.

The Five Finger Rule:

1. Open to a page of the book.
2. Begin reading.
3. Each time you come to a word you don't know, hold up 1 finger.
4. After you finish reading the page, check to see how many fingers you are holding up.

Too Easy = 0-1 fingers

Just Right = 2-3 fingers

Too Hard = 4-5 fingers



Reading Tips for Home

"Show me a family of readers, and I will show you the people who move the world."
~ Napoleon Bonaparte



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go."

— Dr. Seuss

Ways to Read With a Child

Adult Reads: The adult reads the book to the child. Young children often want a favorite book read again, and again...and again!

Shared Reading: The adult does most of the reading but encourages the child to read any word he/she knows. "If you see a word you know, just say it!"

Echo Reading: The adult reads a sentence and then the child reads the same sentence.

Choral Reading: Adult and child read the sentences together.

Partner Reading: The adult and the child take turns reading a paragraph and/or a page. This can be done in any type of book—a picture book, a simple book, or a chapter book.

Paired Reading: The adult and the child read the sentences together, but at a signal from the child, the adult drops out, coming back in to support the child's reading whenever the child has difficulty. The adult drops back out again at the child's signal.

Child Reads: The child reads the book to the adult.

Prompts to Use When Your Child is Stuck on a Word

- Please try that again (to see if they can catch their own mistake).

If your child cannot figure out the error, simply point to the word and try any of the prompts listed below:

- You said _____. Can we say it that way? Does that sound right?
- Look at the picture. What word would make sense?
- Spot your vowel(s) in the word.
- If it's a multisyllable word, ask your child to try the 'vowel bump chant.' Find the 1st vowel and then say:
 - ◆ If I bump into two (consonants), there's one for me and one for you!
 - ◆ If I bump in to one, I get none!
- Try to 'chunk' the word or break it down in to smaller parts by covering up some of it with your fingers.
- Do you see any parts of the word you already know? This usually includes: beginning blends (example— ch, wh) vowel pairs (example— ee, oa) endings (example— ing, ed, s)
- Do you see any little words hidden inside of the big word?
- Go back to the beginning of the sentence and reread. What word would make sense in the story?
- Do you know of another word that looks like that one?

Helping Your Child Comprehend the Text

Before reading, ask your child to activate their **schema** and think about what they already know about the topic.

While reading, be sure to stop every few pages and make **predictions**.

Here are some questions you can ask after reading with your child:

Connections: Is there a part of this story that reminds you of something in your own life or something you have already read?

Questions: What were you wondering about as you read this part? Can you show me a part where you were confused? What was confusing about it?

Visualizing: Were there places in the text where you made a picture in your mind? Describe it to me. What specific words helped you create the picture in your mind?

Inferring: What do you think were the big ideas in the story? Why do you think the author wrote this story? What do you predict would happen if this story kept going?

Determining Importance in Text: What is this story mostly about? What do you think is the most important to remember about this story or topic?

Synthesizing: Can you tell me what the story is about in just a few sentences? Was there a place in the story where your thinking changed, and why did it change? Do you have any new ideas or information from what you read?