

Reading Tips for Parents and Teachers



- Go to your public library regularly for lots of great books for children of all ages. Librarians love to help parents, teachers and kids find books.
- Always read the books yourself before you read them to your child. Make sure that the book is right for your child's age. Use books that you like. It is more fun for you and your child if you like the book too.
- Tell the children the title and author of the book.
- Show that you are excited about the book before, during and after reading it. Get excited about the story. Point to the pictures as you are reading the story in order to emphasize what is happening.
- Be dramatic when you read. Change the tone of your voice. Read faster in some places and slower in others. Use different voices for different characters. Have fun!!!
- Involve your child in the story. Read with rather than to your child. Make sure that children can see the pictures while you read. Let your child point to the pictures. Talk about the story when you are done. Answer children's comments in positive ways.
- Ask questions such as, "What do you think will happen next?" "What would you do if you were...?" "How do you feel about this story?" This encourages language development and critical thinking.

- Read the comics from the newspaper together (children love cartoons).
- Take books with you wherever you go and read when children need a distraction.
- Encourage older children to read to younger ones.
- Set aside a time when everyone in your home reads. Children will learn by example.
- Discuss the stories that you have read with your children.
- Subscribe to a children's magazine.
- Read stories at bedtime.
- Have your child clip out coupons from the newspaper with you before a shopping trip.
- Put the names of objects on cards around the house.
- Put together a picture dictionary with your child by cutting out pictures from magazines that start with each letter of the alphabet.



What might go wrong

- Some children have short attention spans. Encourage a child to sit and listen, but do not force them to do so.
- The story may be too long or too complicated for younger children.
- Other activities are more attractive at the moment, or there are distractions and noises nearby.
- The setting is uncomfortable; i.e. hard floor, room is too cold, or too hot.
- Some children may be less mature than others, or may be hungry, thirsty, or sleepy.
- Children are being expected to sit still too long.

What might help

- Allow children to participate, especially restless children. For example: ask them to turn the page, answer questions about the story, etc.
- Use the name of the child who is having difficulties listening to the story to keep their attention.
- Children will be more involved if they can see the pictures; so, be sure to show the pictures throughout the story.
- If a story isn't working - stop reading it and switch to a new one; or skip pages to finish it quickly and move on to a new book.
- Sit on the floor with the children, so they can experience the closeness made possible through reading aloud together.

Positive memories about books,
create positive attitudes
towards reading!