


Tips For Helping Your Child Read



Here's how to make first-time reading easy and fun:

- Read the introduction at the beginning of the book aloud. Look through the pictures together so that your child can see what happens in the story before reading the words.
- Read one or two pages to your child, placing your finger under each word.
- Let your child touch the words and read the rest of the story. Give him or her time to figure out each new word.
- If your child gets stuck on a word, you might say, "*Try something. Look at the picture. What would make sense?*"
- If your child is still stuck, supply the right word. This will allow him or her to continue to read and enjoy the story. You might say, "*Could this word be 'ball'?*"
- Always praise your child. Praise what he or she reads correctly, and praise good tries too.
- Give your child lots of chances to read the story again and again. The more your child reads, the more confident he or she will become.
- Have fun! 

CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT AS EMERGENT STORYBOOK READERS

From the work of Elizabeth Sulzby

At the beginning, some children may...

simply label or respond to the pictures on each page with little or no understanding of the larger story.

Children will progress to...

telling a story (frequently in the present tense) based on the picture that is in front of them.

Next children will...

make a transition between oral and written language. They will read the story using the pictures *and* the language which they have internalized from hearing the story over and over again. It may sound like conventional reading.

Then some children may...

refuse to read the book using the pictures because they realize that print holds the message. Some children may insist on reading the print and will struggle to do this.

Finally children will...

orchestrate what they know about print, their memories of the text and the pictures to read conventionally.

Top Ten Ways

Families Can Raise Children Who Are Lifelong Readers & Writers

1. Read aloud to your child daily - especially at bedtime. (the book, *Reading Magic* by Mem Fox has great tips on how to read aloud and make it fun)

2. Take books and writing material (tiny notebooks are great for this) with you everywhere - on trips, to the doctor's office, in the car, to the beach, etc...

3. Help your child find a favorite spot for reading and writing at home. Keep the spot well stocked with tools that readers and writers need (post it notes, different kinds of paper, pens and pencils, etc...)

4. Let friends and relatives (even the Tooth Fairy) know that your child loves receiving books as gifts. When you receive a book as a gift model how special this is by making a huge fuss.

5. Involve your child in selecting magazine subscriptions. Browsing through magazines at a large bookstore will offer a big selection. When the magazine arrives, enjoy reading it together.

6. Have your child retell the key elements from books, movies, or even life events so he/she can practice sequencing and deciding on which details are important.

7. Make weekly trips to the library (or bookstore). Help your child select "just right" books that he/she can read and also higher-level books that you can enjoy together.

8. Talk about (and model) your reading and writing life with your child by sharing special letters, favorite authors, favorite childhood books, and favorite reading and writing memories.

9. Establish a family game time and play word games such as Boggle, Hangman, or Scrabble Junior.

10. Create real reasons for reading and writing by leaving notes for your child in his/her lunchbox, bedroom, or even in the kitchen as a reminder for chores or shopping items.

