

Reading Together with Your Child

Tips for Parents

Reading together is one of the most important things you can do to help your child become a successful and happy reader. This can be done with a series, such as the **We Both Read*** books, which have been specifically designed for you and your child to take turns reading. However, almost any book can be read together, as long as some of the text is simple enough for your child to read. As you read aloud, it will improve your child's language development, vocabulary, comprehension and fluency. It will also model good reading habits and show that reading is a fun activity. Then, as you listen to your child read aloud, you can interact and support your child's reading in many different ways.

Below are a number of tips on reading together with your child. Try reading together at least a little every day and you may be surprised how quickly you see the benefits!

Beginning Tips

- Try to find a place that is comfortable. Make sure both readers can see the book clearly.
- Be ready to prompt your child for her turn. Determine a signal before the reading. This could be a verbal prompt, tap on the elbow, or point to the first word.
- Instruct your child to point to, or touch, the words when reading.
- Model good reading. Pause at commas and periods. Emphasize rhymes. Show excitement in your voice. Enjoy the story, since your enthusiasm will be contagious.
- Praise often. Positive praise goes a long way towards a positive attitude.
- Be willing to read books more than once. Most children enjoy reading the same book again and again. New meaning is often added during each additional session.

Advanced Tips

- Before reading a new book, look at the title and the pictures inside. Talk about what the book might be about. Let your child do most of the talking and listen carefully.
- Encourage your child to look at the pictures when reading. The pictures will help with understanding the story.
- If your child comes across an unknown word, wait five seconds, then say the word. If asked for help with a word, give it and move on. If your child tries to "sound out" a word, then let your child continue. If misread, and the new word makes sense, just go on. If the meaning doesn't make sense, simply say the correct word and move on.
- Stop occasionally and talk about the meaning of the text. If your child stops to ask a question, then answer it. This will enhance overall comprehension.
- After reading the book together you can ask questions to further reinforce comprehension. For example: What did you like best? What was the funniest part? What would a friend like most about this book?

***We Both Read** books feature pages that alternate in reading difficulty. The left-hand pages, which you read, have more complex text. The right-hand pages, which your child reads, feature text that is appropriate for your child's reading ability. For more information about the We Both Read books, you can check out the website at www.webothread.com