



10 Tips for Reading with Preschoolers

- 1) **Read with your child everyday!** Making story time a daily routine instills the message that reading and spending time together are enjoyable and important to your family
- 2) **It's never too early to start reading with your child.** Babies enjoy being cuddled while listening to the sound of your voice whether reading, making up a story, or singing
- 3) **Older babies love to look at pictures and flip pages.** Sturdy board or cloth books are great for his age group, who like to touch and sometimes even taste books!
- 4) **Ask toddlers to name the things they see in picture books.** Children like to be involved in the reading so encourage them to point out familiar things and tell you about what they see.
- 5) **Repeat after me-Repetition is a good thing!** Toddlers often request to hear the same books and stories over and over again. Reading these favorites is both comforting to young children and helps them develop word recognition.
- 6) **Reading can be an action-packed activity.** Story time doesn't have to be sitting quietly time. Use different voices, sound effects or body movements to add some drama to the story you're reading.
- 7) **Help your child create their own book.** Engage your child's imagination by having them paint or draw pictures to a familiar story or one they make up. Write down the words to the story for them by hand or on a computer. Staple all the pages together and then read your child's creation together!
- 8) **Visit the library.** Libraries are great resources and not just for the multitude of books you can borrow. Many libraries offer free story time sessions designed to engage infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Librarians can suggest books appropriate to your child's age and interest.
- 9) **Read all kinds of books.** Picture books, nursery rhymes, alphabet and counting books, fairy tales, non-fiction books on everything from dinosaurs to space ships, early-reader chapter books, magazines, comic books, cook books, Help your child discover and enjoy a wide variety of reading material.
- 10) **Reading doesn't always involve a book.** You can incorporate reading into your child's day where ever you are by pointing out letters and words on signs, cereal boxes, menus, shopping lists etc...



The Benefits of Reading to Children

- 1) Literature can positively affect a child's
 - Self-esteem
- 2) When reading aloud is shared activity, children are encouraged to
 - Ask questions and talk about the story
- 3) This is a perfect opportunity to teach
 - Values
 - Encourage integrity
 - Give children high ideals to reach for
- 4) Giving children direct contact with books is very important for increasing their:
 - Attention spans
 - Listening skills
 - Vocabulary
 - Ability to visualize
 - Greater cultural knowledge
 - Logical thinking
 - Eventual success in reading

Try these read-aloud tips:

- ❖ **Introduce book:** Read the title, author, and illustrator; look at the cover; talk about what the book might be about; suggest things to look and listen for
- ❖ **Run your finger** under the text, while reading
- ❖ **Answer questions** related to the book; save other questions for later
- ❖ **Talk about the story** during and after a read-aloud session
- ❖ **Use information and reference books** to answer children's questions
- ❖ **Ask children to look closely at the pictures** to help them understand the story and make predictions about what might happen next.
- ❖ **Repeat** interesting words and rhymes while reading a book and at a later time.
- ❖ **Pause and wait** so children can say the word that ends a repetitive or predictable phrase.
- ❖ **Stop to ask thinking questions** (e.g. 'What might happen next?', 'Where did he go?', 'Why did she do that?')
- ❖ **Give everything a name** You can build comprehension skills. Play games that involve naming or pointing to objects. Say things like (e.g. 'Where's your nose?', 'Where's Mommy's nose?' or touch your child's nose and say 'What's this?')
- ❖ **Follow up on the story.** Invite a child to talk; draw or paint; pretend to be one of the characters, play with puppets etc...
- ❖ **Read it and experience it.** Help your child make the connection between what he reads in books and what happens in life.