

Tip Sheet

THE NEED TO READ



Reading Aloud With Your Child

The best way to help your children with reading is by reading to them. This sounds simple and actually is so easy to do. When children listen to stories being read aloud, they hear what reading sounds like and learn to recreate this as they read silently. The words blend together and vivid images are created in their minds.

Role Model

You are the role model for your child. Read to your child and let them see you reading. You really can help your child enjoy reading, and it will become a life-long habit.



Family Reading

Good teachers know that it's important to take time to read aloud to their students every day. Sometimes we think oral reading is only for younger children, yet students of all ages, even middle school children, enjoy hearing a good story or poem. Let's face it, as adults, we love to hear a story that is read with excitement. In the United States, mothers often are the ones who are reading to their children. This is great; however, it is also important for others to read to children. Older children can read to younger children. Mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, grandmothers, grandfathers, and other adult friends can all read to your child!

Family Reading

- ◇ Use time spent waiting for appointments to read to your child.
- ◇ Relax, take your time; no need to rush through reading time.
- ◇ Ask your child questions about the story.
- ◇ Let your child ask you questions about the story.
- ◇ Talk about answers to the questions.
- ◇ Make up stories from a picture or just start a story and take turns adding to it. Write your stories down and read them together.
- ◇ Talk about the pictures.
- ◇ Relate story events to your child's personal experiences.
- ◇ Read with expression; change your voice for different characters. Let your child imitate you.
- ◇ Reread your child's favorite stories.
- ◇ Point to the words as you read along.
- ◇ Show your child how to start reading at the left and from top to bottom of the page.
- ◇ Read many different types of materials: books, magazines, comic books, menus, newspapers, etc.
- ◇ Have fun reading with your child!

Snuggle Up

Find a comfortable place to read together whenever possible. Parents can snuggle up with their children in a big comfortable chair, on a sofa, or in bed. Let your children get ready for bed early so they can read to you, or you can take turns reading.

Rule Of Thumb

The rule of thumb is to try to read at least 15 minutes everyday. All of us know that this is not always possible with our busy schedules. Still there are many ways to fit reading time in besides sitting down and reading together.

Read Together

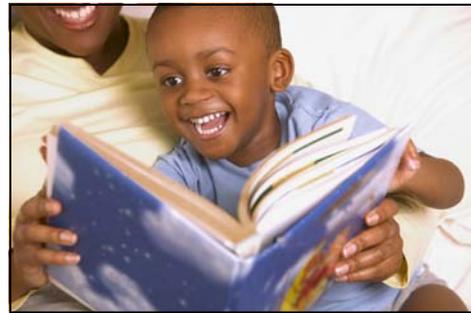
Try reading together with your child using the computer. A wide variety of games exist that your child will enjoy and will require reading. Ask your child's teacher to suggest some titles used in the classroom or talk to your friends about software that is age appropriate. The Internet is also a place where reading can be emphasized. You and your child can search a topic of interest and then read the information you find. Some interesting topics might be space discoveries, sports, articles in newspapers, or maybe your child will find a pen-pal in another state or country to write to!



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Good Reading

Books on audio tapes are great ways for your child to hear examples of good reading. You can find these at book stores, discount stores, and the public or school library. You can even record your child's favorite books on tape. If you travel or have to be away from home in the evening, young children will love to hear your voice as you read a beloved bedtime story. Be certain to add a few special words to your child at the end of your recorded story time. Your child can simply listen to the story for the sheer enjoyment that it brings or she/he can follow along with the book as the story is read.



A Wide Variety

Read a wide variety of types of literature to your children. Let them select books they enjoy, even if they seem "silly" to you. If you are reading something that is not interesting to you or your child, stop and select something else. Reading aloud to your child is a time for fun and being together. Treasure the experience!