



READ TOGETHER, GROW TOGETHER

8 tips for families



READ OVER & OVER

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Did you know you can read the same books, over and over again? Re-reading the same thing gives your child the chance to remember the story. They can also grow comfortable with words, print, and letters. You do not have to have a new book to read each time!

IT'S TIME TO RHYME!

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Rhyming is when two or more words have the same ending sound. Rhyming words can have endings that are spelled the same, like cat/hat. Or they might have different spellings for the endings, like blue/zoo or care/bear. Learning about rhyming is a fun and important way for children to develop their language skills.

ABCs

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It is important for your child to learn the alphabet, including all of the letters – both big (uppercase) and small (lowercase). You can point to and name letters in books or as you see them in the world around you – like on a STOP sign, menus, or labels.



EXPLORE NEW WORDS

Hearing and talking about new words – or vocabulary – will help your child grow their language skills. Children learn vocabulary in many ways. They hear new words from adults or other children, or they see or hear new words from books. They also learn new words by experiencing new things and talking about them.



NAME WRITING

Writing their name is a key skill, but there is no rush. It takes time and practice. Even very young children love to pretend to write! Show them the letters in their name. When they are ready, they can try – even just the first letter or two. Encourage them even if it is scribble. It will get neater as they get older.



TALK ABOUT THE BOOK

Even after you finish a book, you can keep talking about it. Talk about the people and animals. Or talk about questions your child asked. Talking about the book will help your child understand the story and its meaning. It will also give them a chance to practice using new words or ideas.



LEARN ABOUT PRINT

Your child needs to learn that print has meaning. Children with strong print knowledge are better able to learn how to read and write. Point to the text and track the words with your finger. Talk about the different parts of a book. Show them how to read from left to right and top to bottom. You can also show them things like spaces or periods.



MAKE READING FUN

There is no perfect way to read with your child. The important thing is that you read often. Give your child many chances to hear stories and to practice all these reading skills. Choose books that match your child's age and interests. Make a cozy reading spot. Change your voice or use different faces to bring the story to life. Ask questions!



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