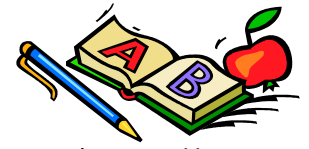


Tips For Reading With Your Child



Select a book and read to your child. As you read, **point to the words**. This reinforces that you **read from the left to the right** on a page and that the letters make up words. Have your child retell the story in his/her own words.

Listen to your child reread a book that he/she is familiar with. Have your child point to the words as he/she reads.

Introduce a new book and read it with your child pointing to the words as you read. Ask your child to draw the part he/she likes best. Write a dictated sentence below your child's picture. Have your child read the sentence to you pointing to the words. Once your child is familiar with the words in the sentence, write the sentence on a strip of paper and cut the strip into words. Have your child arrange the words in the correct order and read the sentence to you.

Create a book box using a decorated shoebox. Have your child put books or stories that he/she has written in the box or books that he or she can read. Have your child pick a book or story to read to you pointing to the words as they read.

Have your child start a journal. For early grades, have your child draw a picture about something they did and dictate a sentence to write below the picture.

Have your child start a writing journal. Have your child write in the journal each day describing their day.

Start a family writing journal. Write a letter to your child in a journal. Pass the journal to your child. Have them read the letter and respond to the questions you ask in your letter. Have your child pass it back to you. Now you respond to their letter written to you. Continue passing the journal back and forth each day.

Cut up your child's name (first, last, or both), depending on your child's knowledge and experience) and put the cut-up letters in an envelop. Ask your child to put together his/her name. Talk about the letters and letter sounds in your child's name.



Make a book with your child using his/her name (example: Mary likes blue. She likes to ride a bike.). Let your child write as much as he/she can, especially his/her name. Have your child illustrate each page. Read the book with your child. Put the sentences on strips of paper. Cut the strip into words and have your child put the sentence in order.

Make a connection between your child's name and other words. For example, find words in a grocery store or newspaper that start with the same letter as your child's name. You can also do this while driving in the car having your child watch for signs and marquees.

After your child can write her first name, invite him/her to learn their last name. As you child progresses, have your child learn to write the names of her/his family and friends.

What's in a Word?

Young children need to learn all sorts of information about words that may seem obvious to us as adult readers but that is brand new to them:

- Letters cluster together to make a word, and there is white space around words.
- A word is spelled the same whenever it appears – in different stories, in writing, on the board, etc.
- Words can be made up of one or more letters (*I, up, dog*).
- Words are sequences of sound that are represented by letters and clusters of letters (*me, chair*).
- Words have parts that are like other words (*tree, try or day, play*)
- The sound of a word is a clue to the letters in it.
- Words can have letters that make no sounds (*make, lamb*).



- Words can be spelled the same and mean different things (*play, play: can, can*).
- Words can be spelled differently and sound the same (*to, too, two*).
- Words can be spelled the same but sound different depending on what is meant (*read, read*).

Finding and Sorting Letters

Magnetic letters are especially helpful for your child because he/she can feel the letters and develop his/her ability to notice the distinctive features of each letter. Magnetic letters are good for sorting because they give your child practice in looking at the features and naming them. As your child sorts, ask him/her to say the letter name.

- Letters in my name letters not in my name.
- Tall letters and short letters (*t, h, l, f* and *r, a, m, n*).
- Capital and lowercase letters (*T, M, L, S* and *t, m, l, s*).
- Capital and lowercase pairs (*Tt, Mm, Nn, Ss, Rr*).
- Letters with tails and letter with no tails (*g, y, p, q* and *r, s, o*).
- Letters with circles and letters without circles (*a, b, d, g, p* and *r, j, t, s*).
- Letters in alphabetical order (*a, b, c, d, e*).

