

Taking time to read with your child builds stronger relationships and helps him excel at school early.

Making reading fun for children of all ages

Good reading habits can be fun and rewarding

Finding time to read each day with your child at any age is important to improve and maintain their literacy skills.

With today's busy schedules, it can be hard to find quiet moments with a good book. Take advantage of times when you know you will be waiting with your child. Pack a book in your diaper bag or purse. Make sure your child takes time out from other activities such as playing video games or watching TV to read.

Keeping a home with lots of reading material from books, magazines, audio books, newspapers and more can help your child stay enthusiastic about reading.

One of the most important things is to be a reader yourself. Children who see their parents reading are more likely to read more.

What parents can do

For babies (6-weeks to 1-year-old)

- Provide a comfortable place for storytime.
- Show your child the pictures.
- Change your voice for characters to show excitement and emotion.
- Pay attention to how your baby responds. See what they like or what might put them to sleep.

For toddlers (1 to 3-year-olds)

- Encourage your child to join in during parts they might have memorized.
- Try to relate ideas in stories to real-life examples that your child knows about.
- Point out letters and words that might be familiar. For instance, show them the first letter of their name.

For pre-schoolers (3 to 4-year-olds)

- Help your child begin to identify letters and what sounds they make.
- Ask your child to describe what is going on in the pictures.

For kindergartners (5-year-olds)

- Find ways to help your child begin to identify words that appear in their books.
- Listen to your child as they retell a story to you.
- Encourage their creativity as they tell their own stories.

For first graders (6-year-olds)

- Have your child read you a story.

For grades 2 through 5

- Show delight when your child reads to you.
- Talk about the books they read.

For grades 6 through 12

- Discuss the books they read in school and for their own personal enjoyment.
- Share things that you read with your child.
- Show sincere interest in what your child thinks about the topics he reads about and what he learns.