

Tips for Reading with Preschoolers



Say how much you enjoy reading together

Tell your child how much you enjoy reading with him or her. Talk about "story time" as the favorite part of your day.

Surround your child with books

Try to have books in your home for your child to read. Books from a bookstore can be expensive, but there are places where you can get inexpensive books, such as second hand bookstores, garage sales, thrift shops, and library book sales. And of course, borrowing books from the library is free!

Let your child choose

Let your child pick out his or her own books. Letting your child read what interests him or her is one way that reading becomes fun.

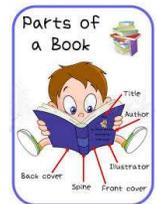


Make reading special

Do things that will make books and reading seem special. Help your child get his or her own library card, buy books and books-on-tape as gifts, and use books as rewards.

Show your child the parts of a book

Look at the cover of the book. Talk about what the book might be about. Look at the page numbers. Tell your child who the author is and who the illustrator is.



Show how we read words on a page

Point out how we read words on a page from left to right and from top to bottom. Explain that words are separated by space s.

Ask your child questions

Discuss what's happening in the story and point out things on the page. Ask your child questions such as: "What do you think will happen next?"



Let your child ask you questions

If your child asks a question, stop and answer even if it interrupts the story. Find ways to talk about how the story relates to your child's life.



Let your child tell you the story

Many children memorize stories they've heard many times. Let your child take a turn "reading" the book to you.

Talk about punctuation

Explain that punctuation is a way to show how we talk. You can say, for example, "When we talk, we usually pause a little bit at the end of a sentence. The way we show this in writing is to use a period."

Read it again and again

Your child may want to hear a favorite story over and over. Go ahead and read the same book for the 100th time! This is beneficial for your child.

