

Reading Tips

Read early and read often. Children's early years are critical to developing a lifelong love of reading and it's never too early to begin reading to your child. The tips below offer some fun ways you can help your child become a happy and confident reader. See what works best for your child.

Turn off the TV!

Read together every day

Read to your child every day. Make this a warm and loving time when the two of you can cuddle or sit close together. Encourage your child to hold the book themselves and/or turn the pages.

Ask your child to choose a book

Sharing books they have chosen shows you care what they think and that their opinion matters. This means they are more likely to engage with the book.

Give everything a name

Build your child's vocabulary by talking about interesting words and objects. For example, "Look at that plane! Those are the wings of the plane. Why do you think they are called wings?"

Point to the pictures

Link the pictures to something your child knows. Ask them to describe the characters or situation or what will happen next. Encourage them to tell you the story by looking at the pictures.

Encourage your child to talk about the book

Talk about the characters and things that are happening. Give your child plenty of time to respond. Ask them what will happen next, how a character might be feeling or how the book makes them feel.

Say how much you enjoy reading

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

Make it fun!

Read with fun in your voice - with humour and expression. Use different/funny voices. Ham it up, children love it!

Know when to stop

Put the book away for a while if your child loses interest or is having trouble paying attention.

Be interactive

Discuss what's happening in the book, point out things on the page, and ask questions. Let the children turn the pages.

Read it again and again

Go ahead and read your child's favourite book for the 100th time!

Talk about writing, too

Mention to your child how we read from left to right and how words are separated by spaces.

Point out print everywhere

Talk about the written words you see in the world around you. Ask your child to find a new word on each outing. Point out logos they might recognise such as shop names.