

# • Together Time •



Read Together 20  
Minutes Every Day™

## Taking Turns Talking

When you are reading and talking with your child about a book, make sure you talk the same way as you would if engaging in a conversation with a colleague or another adult. Always respect turns and listen actively. Sometimes it is useful to hold a stuffed animal or a blanket as you talk during your turn, and then pass it on to your child as they talk. Repeat the cycle until you no longer need this type of reminder to respect each other's turn.



and have interactive conversations about what happens in the stories. Opportunities to ask questions, make comments, and ask and share opinions will arise naturally when you read together.

Depending on the age and developmental stage of your child, ask silly or serious questions, and allow them to also ask questions to participate in this dialogue. For example, if you are reading *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss, you could ask: "Do you think you would like green eggs and ham?" "What animals are mentioned in the book?" "Have you ever been on a train? What food did you eat?" "Why didn't he like green eggs and ham if he had never tried them?" "Do you always say you don't like something and then find out it is pretty good?"

## How Do I Read With a Child?

Our message is simple: Read with your child 20 minutes every day. But we know that sometimes reading may not feel simple for people who are not comfortable doing it, whether it is because they don't consider themselves good readers, or maybe the books are not in their native language, or simply because nobody read to them as they were growing up.

When reading with a child, the most important thing is the time spent together.

There are several ways to make reading with a child fun and engaging for both of you. One of those ways is to explore the books

Having a dialogue with your child while you read not only strengthens your child's prereading skills, it also develops strong foundations for critical thinking. This kind of interaction is called

*serve and return*, and it is vital for a young brain's development. If you are reading to a baby, instead of asking questions, slow down and clearly say each word. Infants need to see your mouth movements and hear words to begin to experience the rhythm of language.

