

# • Together Time •



Read Together 20  
Minutes Every Day™

## Treasure Hunt at the Library

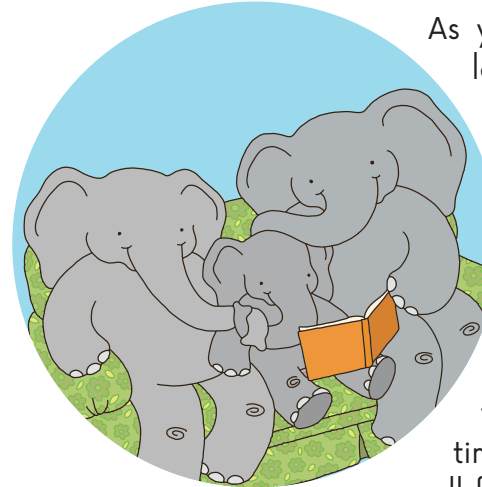
Raising a reader is about providing books and reading opportunities. It is also about supporting children as they identify and refine their preference for certain genres, topics, authors, illustrators, etc.

In preparation for your next visit to the library, take some time with your school-age children (and include younger children, if possible!) and make a list of the topics that interest them. To get the ideas flowing, talk about the book topics you liked when you were a child and why those topics interested you.

At the library, allow your children to search for books on their topics of interest, and encourage them to have a conversation with a librarian for more options.

## It's Never Too Early or Too Late to Read Together

The benefits of reading with a child from infancy are impressive. However, it is never too late to start reading together. Also, be sure to continue this daily tradition even when children can read on their own. School-age children and even teens benefit from the social and emotional learning opportunities that arise when reading with parents, siblings, and caregivers.



As you can imagine, the scenario looks very different when reading with a preschooler than with a school-age child. Older children have acquired many skills over time, which can make reading together an enjoyable time for you both.

Here are tips on how to make the most out of your reading time. Some of these tips will work well for younger children; others are for older children:

1. Ask questions to explore the different perspectives of the various characters in a story.
2. Allow children the opportunity to talk about how the story relates to their own experiences.
3. Don't limit these conversations only to reading time. School-age children can participate in meaningful discussions that may have a long-lasting impact, and those interactions can happen anywhere!
4. Discuss the story with a critical lens: What would you have done differently? What was the definitive moment in the story and how would it have ended if the character had chosen A instead of B?
5. Explain and use the complex vocabulary and sentence structures presented in the story.