

• Together Time •



Read Together 20
Minutes Every Day™

Active Reading

As you are reading, engage children in active reading. Let babies touch the pages, and direct their fingers to certain illustrations (e.g., “Where is the red hen?”). Pause to ask your toddler to point out some words in the book (e.g., “There is a word that starts with F, like ‘Frida.’ Can you find it? You found it so fast! Yes, it says ‘fish.’ ‘Fish’ starts with F.”). Have conversations that may relate to your preschooler or school-age child’s life (e.g., “How did you feel when we moved to our new home?”).

Through this back and forth, you show children how much knowledge they are gaining. Simple strategies like pointing to things, answering questions, or retelling stories, promote reading comprehension. The 20 minutes you spend every day reading and talking are building a solid foundation toward reading early and well!

Fun With Books

It is easy to have fun with books when you read with your child!

Let your child see your enthusiasm! Smile! Read with a lot of expression. Change your voice and volume. Take this as an opportunity to leave daily stress behind and enjoy your time together.

Allow plenty of time to look at and talk about the pictures. Let your child turn the pages. Sometimes they may want to go backwards instead of forward. That is alright. There is no right or wrong way to explore a book when a child is young. You will have time later to emphasize that the right page follows the left page.



Pause to ask questions about the characters and events. Encourage conversation, but also give children a few seconds between questions. Don’t rush a response or interpret this as lack of interest. Children are trying to make sense of their world, including the world of books.

Make up a new character or ending. Be creative and encourage children’s creativity. You may be reading to a future best-selling writer!

A great goal is to read three books a day together: two familiar stories and perhaps one that is new. Not sure what to read? Search for accredited booklists online. You can also talk to your librarian. They are great allies when you have read everything at hand and want to take advantage of your child’s eagerness to read.