

• Together Time •



Read Together 20
Minutes Every Day™

Every Minute Counts

Look at your Reading Tracker Calendar and think about all those days you have marked after reading together! Count out the minutes. Could you add the time you've spent engaging in conversations with your child about anything from toys, food, dinosaurs, or unicorns? Every word your child

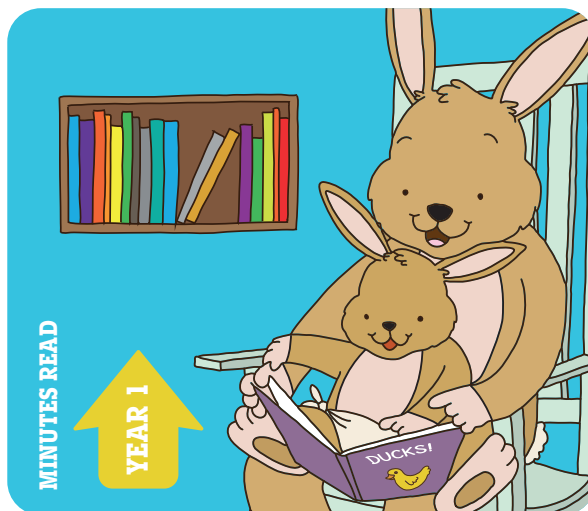
hears, whether from reading or discussions with you, has a powerful impact.

Once a week, take time to celebrate with your child by counting up the number of minutes you have read together. Do the same at the end of the month, and then at the end of the year. Think of it as a yearly present you are giving your child. When it comes to reading and literacy, each word is an investment in your child's future.

Daily Reading Has a Big Impact Over Time

An "opportunity gap" occurs when a child doesn't have the same access to early learning opportunities at home. This can result in a child starting kindergarten with skills below his or her peers.

Reading with your child for 20 minutes each day and having conversations are the best tools to overcome the opportunity gap.



This time together has a big impact:

- You are providing your child with 7,300 minutes of reading time every year!
- By the time your child starts the first day of kindergarten, you will have read with him or her for nearly 36,500 minutes!

• If you consider normal speech consists of an average of 130 words per minute, your child might have listened to 4,745,000 words by the time he or she goes to school.

• Plus, having conversations with your child throughout the day will exponentially multiply the number of words your child hears each day.

But numbers are cold! Next time you're reading together, think instead about the millions of neural connections that are happening in the young brain. These connections prepare your child's mind for all future learning. Think about all the positive interactions, learning, and growth that take place during reading time.

Reading together is also about establishing solid relationships with caring adults. These relationships have an impact on your child's self-esteem, independence, and the way he or she faces the world.