

Reading for Success

Make a game out of reading

The love of reading starts even before your child can read by himself. How can you help your child develop a love of reading that will last a lifetime? It may be as simple as playing a few games. Try some of these games at your house:

- **Letter collection.** Pick a letter and challenge your child fill a shoebox with items that start with that letter. Your child can fill a “P” box with a pencil, a paper clip and a pen.
- **Board games.** Even prereaders can play Scrabble®—as a matching game! Turn the letter tiles face down. Have your child flip over two tiles at a time, naming the letters as they’re revealed. Those that don’t match are turned back over so he can try again.
- **Sing a song.** Your child probably has a favorite song. Print the lyrics on a sheet of paper. Point to the words as you sing the song together. Then, have your child point to the words and “read” them while singing alone.
- **Word searches.** Look for them in activity books and on children’s menus in restaurants.
- **Treasure hunt.** Leave word and picture clues around the house. See if your child can follow them to find a treasure.
- **Guess the word.** Read a poem. Have your child guess what the next rhyming word will be.
- **Silly collages.** Cut simple words out of a newspaper or magazine. Glue them on paper. Have your child draw a picture for each word.
- **Memory challenge.** Build the memory skills needed for reading with this game. Put eight items on a tray. Let your child look at the items for one minute. Then take the tray away. Can your child remember what was on the tray?
- **Word of the Day.** Choose a “Word for the Day.” See how many times your child can use it throughout the day.
- **Sign time.** Many children can read words on signs before they can read books. Read the signs you pass out loud to your child. When you pass the same sign again, ask your child to tell you what it says.
- **Rhyme time.** Rhymes teach your child that some words sound the same as other words. Whenever you can, ask your child, “What word sounds like *cat*?” Make up sentences together using words that rhyme. “That *bat* was wearing a *hat*.”
- **Letter search.** Have an “A” day, a “B” day or a “C” day. From breakfast cereal boxes to good-night books, ask your child to point out the special letter.
- **Sing it!** Choose a well-known tune (like “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”) and replace the lyrics with the letters of your child’s name. Pretty soon, “K-A-I-T-L-I-N” will be happily chirping out her special song.



