

Reading for Success

Build a love of reading

Just *telling* your child that reading is important won't do as much good as *showing* your child that reading is fun. And although your child may not be reading yet, there is still a lot you can do to foster a love of reading that will last a lifetime.

Start with 'pretend' reading

The more children *pretend* to read, the sooner they'll actually *learn* to read. Encourage pretend reading by following these tips:

- **Get books with simple pictures** and text that has rhythm and rhyme.
- **Reread familiar books often.** Your child will memorize parts or all of these books.
- **Pause while reading.** Point to a picture. Ask your child to say what it is.
- **Stop before you say a word or phrase—** perhaps one that repeats or rhymes. See if your child can fill it in.
- **Omit more words** and phrases until your child is telling the story.
- **Ask your child to "read"** the story to you. Help out as needed.



- **Change the name.** Substitute your child's name for the hero's to make an old tale feel new again.
- **Play dress-up.** Pick a few characters from one of your child's favorite books and try to recreate their outfits at home.
- **Give a story a new ending.** Instead of reading straight through to the last page, stop halfway and ask your child to think of a different ending.
 - **Create a new tale.** Take characters from two different books and create a new adventure for them. What might happen if Maisy the mouse went to visit Clifford the dog?

Read in unusual places

Reading in unusual places also adds to the fun. Your child can read:

- **Outside** under a shady tree. In a sandbox or hammock. At a nearby park.
- **Under a tent** made by tossing a sheet over a clothesline or table.
- **In the car** during road trips or traffic delays. Keep a bin of books in your car.
- **Sitting on a blanket** spread on the floor for an indoor reading picnic.

Bring books to life

Are you tired of reading the same books to your child over and over again? Your child can sense your lack of enthusiasm. So why not breathe new life into those books with fun ideas like these:

