

Tips For Reading to Your Child

As Barbara Bush wrote recently, "*Above all, children love to be read to. It is a special time for them to be close to the grown-ups who care for them, and a wonderful way to feel loved.*" (Bush, 1993)

- Read often to your child and have fun.
- Snuggle when you read.
- Don't skip your regular reading time.
- Read and reread stories requested by children.
- Make predictions (child tells what he/she thinks will happen next).
- Enjoy the illustrations.
- Talk about the authors and illustrators of the books you read.
- Be patient while your child is reading aloud.
- Listen to books on tape.
- Have your child read into a tape recorder once a month and share the progress with him/her.
- Read aloud together with your child.
- Leave out a word or phrase on each page. (Ex. Little Red Riding Hood said, "Oh, what big sharp _____ you have, Grandma!")
- Have your child think of a new ending to the story.
- When reading a non-fiction book, ask your child what they know about the topic and what they want to learn.
- Discuss similarities and differences between stories. (Great with Fairy Tales)
- Alternate reading. You read a page, your child reads a page ,etc.
- From time to time, invite other adults or older children to listen in or join in reading aloud.
- When you read, involve your child by having him/her point out objects in the pictures and follow the words with his/her finger.
- Read poems to/with your child.
- Read children's magazines.
- Echo Read: Choose something fun to read, such as a poem, song, or joke. You read a sentence with expression and ask your child to repeat the phrase after you.
- Check out the public library.
- Create a special place for your child's books in your home.
- Keep a few "old favorite" books in the car to enjoy.

QUESTIONS FOR READING

Below you will find a list of possible questions to help you with conversations about your child's reading. They are not intended to be used all at once or every time you read with your child. Use them at your discretion and where they are appropriate. Happy Reading !!

Questions to ask before you read

- Can you look at the pictures and predict what you think will happen in this book?
- What makes you think that?
- What characters do you think might be in our story?
- Do you think there will be a problem in this story? Why or why not?
- Does the topic/story relate to you or your family? How?

Questions to ask during the reading

- What do you think will happen next?
- What can you tell me about the story so far?
- Can you predict how the story will end?
- Why do you think the character did _____?
- What would you have done if you were the character?
- How would you have felt if you were the character? (use different characters)
- As I read _____, it made me picture _____ in my head. What pictures do you see in your head?
- As you read, what are you wondering about?
- Can you put what you've just read in your own words?

Questions to ask after reading

- Can you remember the title?
- In your opinion, was it a good title for this book? Why or why not?
- Were your predictions about the story correct?
- If there was a problem, did it get solved?
- What happened because of the problem?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- What is the most important point the author is trying to make in his writing?
- What was your favorite part of the story?
- If you could change one thing in the story, what would it be?
- Can you retell the story in order?
- If you were _____, how would you have felt?
- What is the most interesting situation in the story?
- Is there a character in the story like you? How are you alike?
- Why did you like this book?