



Learning to Love Books

Your child was born to be a reader and a writer! She is more likely to be a good reader and writer if she enjoys books and reading!

You are your child's first and best teacher. You can help your child to enjoy or be motivated to read. Every day moments are learning moments! Try these easy and fun activities with your child:

YOUR INFANT:

- Read to your baby every day. This is a great way to enjoy each other. Cuddle with your baby and make it fun. He loves your touch, being close to you, and the sound of your voice.
- Repeat and play with the words in books. Sing the words to your baby. He will begin to enjoy making some of the sounds back to you.
- Point to, name, and touch the pictures together.
- Having special time with you and books every day will help your child to love books!

YOUR TODDLER:

- Make sharing books a part of every day. Have fun together with the stories! Try to make up voices for the characters.
- Talk about the books with your child. Act out parts of the story together.
- Take time to look at the cover of the book together. Soon your child will recognize favorite books by their covers.
- Turn the pages when you read to your child. Let your child turn them if he seems to want to. If he is turning pages quickly, just talk about the pictures. If he is turning them slowly, read the words and talk about the pictures.
- Touch and feel books and "pop-up" books are fun for your toddler.
- Read children's nursery rhymes to your child. Read them over and over until she can recite them by herself. Have fun with poems. Laugh about the sounds in them. Talk about what they mean.

YOUR PRESCHOOLER:

- Encourage your child to pretend to read books. He will become eager to learn to read!
- When reading books together, look at the cover of the book. Look at the picture on the cover. Ask your child what she thinks the book will be about. Next, tell her who wrote the story (the author) and who drew the pictures (the illustrator).
- Show your child all the times you read. For example, if you are shopping, you might say, "Let's read our grocery list and see what we need to buy."
- Keep newspapers, magazines, and books that you read out on shelves or counters or coffee tables. Let your child see you reading. If your child knows that you read, then she is more likely to want to read.
- Help your child find books or magazines at the library about his interests. If he likes animals, look for different kinds of books about animals. Look at magazines about animals. Some magazines are written just for children. The library is a great place to go to get excited about reading!

ParentTips is a monthly resource for parents with young children.

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