

READING TIPS

Books build better brains.

[Reach](#) Out and Read encourages all parents to make reading with their children part of their daily routine.

General

- Make reading part of every day, even for just a few minutes.
- Have fun.
- Talk about the pictures. You do not have to read the book to tell a story.
- Let your child turn the pages.
- Show your child the cover page. Explain what the story is about.
- Run your finger along the words as you [read](#) them.
- Silly sounds, especially animal sounds, are fun to make.
- Choose books about events in your child's life such as starting preschool, going to the dentist, getting a new pet, or moving to a new home.
- Make the story come alive. Create voices for the story characters.
- Ask questions about the story. What do you think will happen next? What is this?
- Let your child ask questions about the story. Talk about familiar activities and objects.
- Let your child retell the story.
- Visit your local library often.

Reading with Your Baby

- Hold your baby on your lap while you read.
- [Babies](#) like...
 - board books;
 - pictures of babies;
 - rhymes and songs from the same book over and over;
 - and when you point at pictures - this is how babies learn!

Reading with Your 1-Year-Old

- Let your [toddler](#) move around while you are reading.
- Name the pictures - this is how toddlers learn new words.
- Read labels and signs wherever you go.
- Toddlers like ...
 - the same book over and over;

- a book at bedtime;
- to choose and hold the book;
- [books](#) about food, trucks, animals, and children;
- and books with a few words.

Reading with Your 2-Year-Old

- Read labels and signs wherever you go.
- Keep different books around the house and let your child choose.
- Two-year-olds like ...
 - to help turn the pages;
 - to fill in the words in a story they know;
 - to point and name pictures;
 - to hear the same book over and over;
 - books that are silly;
 - and animal books and animal noises.

Reading with Your Preschool Child

- Have your child sit close or on your lap while [reading](#).
- Ask questions about the story.
- Let your child tell you stories.
- Make weekly visits to the children's room at the library so your child can choose more books.
- Children like ...
 - longer books that tell stories;
 - books without words;
 - alphabet and counting books;
 - books about families, friends, and going to school;
 - and a book at bedtime.

Here are some helpful videos for parents to guide them in reading aloud with their children:

[Jean Ciborowski Fahey, PhD on Raising Readers](#)

Video from Get Ready to Read!

[Reading Together 3](#)

[Reading Together 6](#)

Videos from the Fred Rogers Center Early Learning Environment

[Three Core Concepts in Early Development: Serve & Return Interaction Shapes Brain Circuitry](#)

Video from Harvard University's Center on the Developing Child

[Dr. Patricia Kuhl and Dr. Andrew Meltzoff on Brain Power: Why Early Learning Matters](#)

Video from the 2011 NBC News Education Nation Summit