

Reading With Your Child

When you sit close to your children and read aloud, you show them that reading is fun. As they look and listen, they learn a lot about how books work and how people read. They learn new words and ideas from the stories.

1. Read to your child every day

Finding time to read together can be a challenge! Here are some ideas.

- Bedtime is a favorite read-aloud time in many homes. Sharing a book is a warm and wonderful way for both parent and child to end each day.
- When you and your children run errands, take a book along. Read aloud while you wait in the checkout line or at the doctor's office.
- Read street signs, menus, and the backs of cereal boxes.
- Read aloud with your children even after they've learned how to read. Read old favorite stories as well as books that are too hard for your children to read alone.

2. Before you read

- Choose books together. Ask your librarian to suggest good books about things that interest your child.
- Find a special place to read together, away from TV and other noise
- Talk about the picture on the cover. Ask your child, "What do you think the book will be about?" When children talk about what they already know and what they expect to find out in a book, their interest and understanding grow.

3. While you read

- Be dramatic! Use a different voice for each character. Move your hands. Add sound effects, such as a knock on the door or stomping feet.
- Invite your child to join in when words are repeated such as, "Run, run, run, as fast as you can."
- Ask your child, "What do you think will happen next."
- Run your finger under the words as you read. Your child will learn that the story is in those printed words.

4. After you read

- Talk about the story. Ask, "What part did you like best? What would you do if that happened to you?" Reread a favorite page or go back to a favorite picture.
- Help your child make the story part of his or her life. At the store you might say, "I wish Clifford the Big Red Dog were here. How do you think he could help us?"
- Make up your own version of the story. After reading *The Three Bears*, ask your child, "What would happen if a little bear came to visit our house?"

