

Reading Together with Your Child

Tips for Parents

Reading together is one of the most important things you can do to help your child become a successful and happy reader. This can be done with a series such as the **We Both Read*** books, which has been specifically designed for you and your child to take turns reading aloud. However, almost any book can be read together, as long as some of the text is appropriate for your child's reading level.

Below are a number of tips on reading together with your child. Try reading together at least a little every day and you may be surprised how quickly you see the benefits!

Beginning Tips

- Try to find a place that is comfortable and quiet. Make sure both you and your child can see the book clearly.
- One way to read together is to simply take turns reading. If the book is above your child's reading level, try to notice parts of the text that might be easy enough to invite your child to read. Another way to read together is to "echo read," in which you read a short sentence or phrase, and then your child reads the same sentence or phrase.
- Be ready to prompt when it's your child's turn to read. See if it is helpful for your child to run a finger under the words while reading.
- Model good reading. Pause at commas and periods. Emphasize rhymes. Show excitement in your voice. Enjoy the story; your enthusiasm will be contagious.
- Praise often. Praise and encouragement go a long way toward a positive attitude.
- Keep the reading fun. Some struggle is okay. Too much frustration is not.
- Be willing to read books several times. Most children enjoy reading the same book again and again. They often notice something new during each additional session.

Advanced Tips

- Before reading a new book, look at the title, the cover, and the pictures inside. Talk about what the book might be about. Let your child do most of the talking, and listen carefully.
- Encourage your child to look at the pictures when reading. The pictures will help with understanding the story. Help your child to use the pictures or context to figure out unknown words.
- If your child comes across an unknown word, wait five seconds, then say the word. If asked for help with a word, say the word and move on. If your child might be able to sound out a word or starts to sound one out, provide encouragement. If your child misreads a word, and the new word makes sense, just go on. If the meaning doesn't make sense, simply say the correct word.
- Consider suggesting your child reread a difficult sentence, possibly after you model fluent reading of the sentence.
- Stop occasionally and talk about the meaning of the text. If your child stops to ask a question, answer it. Also, stop to discuss new vocabulary words.
- After reading, have a short discussion about the story to reinforce comprehension and make connections. It is helpful to ask open-ended questions. For example: What was this story about? What was the problem that had to be solved? What did you like best about this book? Can you think of another book like this one? What is similar about the two books?

***We Both Read** books feature pages that alternate in reading difficulty. The left-hand pages have more complex text and are designed for parents or tutors to read. The right-hand pages feature text at an easier reading level that should be appropriate for a child's reading skill. For more information about the **We Both Read** books, visit www.webothread.com.