



HOW TO READ TO YOUR CHILD

TIPS AND TRICKS



For your children to grow smart, it is a must for them to become bookworms early. You, as a parent, can form your children's reading habit by starting them early – from babies to preschool kids. The loving environment created by reading to your young children will help them associate reading with your warmth, and this conditions their minds to feel that reading is a positive, pleasurable activity.

Here are age-appropriate how to's and tips on reading to your children, so they will get the most out of their experience with you:

GENERAL GUIDELINES



- ★ Position yourself so both you and the children are comfortable. Make sure everyone can see the pictures. For example, sit side by side with one or two children. With a group, have the children sit in a semicircle and seat yourself slightly above them so that the children in the back can see the pictures.
- ★ Allow your listeners, especially younger children, a few minutes to settle down to get ready to hear the story.
- ★ Your mood is an important factor in listening. Create anticipation.
- ★ Use plenty of expression and change your tone of voice to fit the dialogue.

BEFORE READING



- ★ Introduce the author by saying something like: "Remember how much we enjoyed _____ by this author? Do you remember what we liked about that story? Here's another book by him/her. Let's read this one and see if we like it as well as the other book we read."
- ★ Show the cover of the book. Ask children what they think the title might be and what the story will be about.
- ★ Discuss what they know about the topic.
- ★ Provide information about the setting, characters, and where the story takes place. With older children, talk about the genre (fiction, nonfiction, folk tale, myth, mystery, science fiction, fable).

DURING READING



- ★ Ask questions and make elaborations (add more information) during the read-aloud.
- ★ Children will ask questions of you also. Answer their questions patiently; don't ignore them or put them off.
- ★ Discuss the illustrations and how they relate to the story.
- ★ Stop periodically and have children recap in their own words what has happened so far. Fill in the gaps of missing information or clarify misconceptions.

AFTER READING



- ★ Give children time to reflect on and think about the reading. Ask them to describe their favorite part and why it was their favorite.
- ★ Review the story components, such as the setting, main character's problem, how the problem was resolved.
- ★ Ask questions to encourage children to think about why events may have happened the way they did; why people in the story behaved in a certain way; what the children would have done the same or differently and why.
- ★ Help children make connections between the events in the story and their own lives.