



TIPS FOR READING WITH CHILDREN*

- **Be mindful of and challenge your own assumptions** and biases about a child's home life, experiences, or reading ability based on their appearance or background.
- **Focus on fun and engagement.** Reading can be a special time in a child's day when they are free to explore their interests and have fun with books in a no-pressure environment.
- **Encourage effort** ("I can see you're enjoying this book.") **rather than praising abilities** ("You're such a good reader.")
- **It's okay if the child makes mistakes.** It's also okay to help. Remember to make reading fun, rather than trying to teach or tutor. Focus on fun and engagement, and leave the hard work of reading instruction to the teachers.
- **Hold high expectations for all children.**
- **Let the child choose whether to read to you or to be read to.** A common myth is that children should be encouraged as soon as possible to read independently. The truth is, listening to read-alouds continues to be extremely beneficial, even for children with strong reading skills, through eighth grade and beyond.



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READING ALOUD

Research clearly shows that active engagement, rather than passive listening, is critical to children becoming strong readers.

- Let the child guide the reading session, and focus on having fun!
- Use plenty of expression and enthusiasm.
- Use dramatic gestures and voices.
- Vary the pace at which you read, such as reading more quickly during exciting parts of the story.
- Act out parts of the story.
- Allow a wiggly child to move about while you read aloud.
- Stop in the middle of a book if a child seems uninterested; invite the child to choose a different book.
- Always let the child choose whether to read to you, or to have you read to them.

ASKING QUESTIONS

Asking questions is a great way to engage the child throughout a book. After asking a question, pause for five seconds to allow the child time to respond.

- What do you think this book is about?
- What do you know about this topic?
- What just happened in the story?
- What do you think what do you think will happen next?
- How do you think this character feels?
- Have you ever seen or experienced something like this?
- What did you learn about this topic? What do you want to learn more about?