

How to Read

to your baby

★ Top 10 Tips ★

- Cuddle with your baby, and choose a setting that is warm and relaxed.
- Read SLOWLY, give wait time, and use a singsong voice.
- Choose simple texts and LOTS of rhyming books. The rhetoric in a nursery rhyme is very appealing for babies! Their little brains crave rhymes.
- Buy or borrow books that have moving, touch and feel, peek-a-boo surprises, or puppet elements. These teach the concepts of object permanence and texture.
- Choose books with familiar pictures; this includes animals, people, toys, and household items.
- Get your baby to participate by pointing, imitating sounds, and eventually turning the page themselves.
- Exaggerate the important elements of the book's events or characters (ex. Look at that dog! WOOF!).
- Paint a picture by not being afraid of acting silly! Use as many sound effects and voices you can imagine!
- Give your child a book to play with during tummy time: it will be chewed on, drooled on, or ripped so get as many soft cloth books or board books as you can or buy 2 of the books you care most about!
- Create a daily schedule for reading; ideally it should be 2-3 times per day when the baby is alert, but not hungry or wet. Make this a habit from birth!

Most importantly: model being a reader. Make sure you are reading books yourself in front of your child. They must see parents and caregivers modeling that reading is important. You can even read aloud to your baby from your book while bottle or breast feeding. (Men, this also means you! :))



Biracial Bookworms

How to Read

to your toddler

★ Top 10 Tips ★

- Choose a warm and comfortable place for you to read and sit together. (Adults: don't fall asleep!)
- Choose books with a lot of repetition of words.
- Read SLOWLY and give adequate wait time to allow your child to maximize the content on each page.
- When appropriate, allow your child to help choose the book.
- Start with a "book walk" where you read the pictures. This will help the child connect the text to the pictures. Examine the pictures, point out objects, and use plenty of repetition on each vocabulary word.
- Exaggerate the important elements of the book's events or characters with different voices.
- Paint a picture by not being afraid of acting silly! Use as many sound effects and voices you can imagine!
- When appropriate, tell the story in your own words so your child stays engaged. This strategy may be used when the book is too complex.
- Ask questions before, during, and after the book.
- Reading with multiple children together is a good practice for family time, but also, read to each of your children child separately. This is key especially if the children are more than 2 years apart.

Most importantly: Get a library card for your child and take them to the library regularly.



How to Read

to your pre-schooler



Tips for the Transition to Kindergarten



- Use the same tips on reading to your toddler above, plus:
- Allow your child to choose books based on interest. This may mean your weekly library trip includes 20 books about trucks or flowers. This is the age where you really want to teach your child that reading is fun.
- If your child is starting to read on their own:
If they make a miscue (pronounce a word incorrectly or read the wrong word), give them the correct word once, and move on. Do not force them to repeat it several times as this causes frustration. Also, if their miscue does not change the meaning or makes sense in context, do not correct them at all.
For example the text says “We made apple pie today.” and your child reads “We cooked apple pie today”, I would not correct them. A beginner reader’s brain starts to read ahead just like adults. At different times, they will read a word that makes sense in context, not necessarily the word that is printed. This action actually shows they are better readers.

