

My Child's Learning: A Parent Resource

Reading with My Child



Make reading a part of your child's everyday life.

Reading with children can mean reading aloud to them or listening as they read to you.

- Reading with your child will help develop your child's:
 - listening and speaking skills
 - thinking skills as he or she asks questions about the story
 - vocabulary and understanding of what words mean
 - imagination.
- Reading with your child also:
 - introduces new ideas and concepts
 - builds knowledge that will help your child learn in school
 - helps your child understand the world around her or him
 - motivates your child to read on his or her own
 - gives your child the confidence to read.

Did You Know?

Reading with your children will help develop their vocabulary, their ability to explain ideas or tell stories, and their understanding of the world.

How You Can Help Your Child Read

Have a variety of reading materials (like books, magazines, and comic books) in your home language(s) as well as in English. Language skills and strategies learned from reading in one language often transfer to another language.

Encourage Reading

- Model reading. Let your child see you reading.
- Visit the public library or the library at school. A librarian can recommend books that are appropriate for your child's reading level and interests.
- Find a quiet and comfortable place in your home for reading with your child. Schedule time each day for reading.
- Read with your child regularly in the language your family uses every day at home or the language your child uses at school.



Did You Know?

Spending as little as 15 minutes a day reading with your child at home can make a difference in how well your child reads.

Listening to an adult reading fluently can help increase a child's own reading fluency and comprehension.

Explore Reading

- Let your child choose books based on what she or he likes.
- Encourage your child to:
 - talk about new words and ideas
 - read instructions for games, recipes, and building sets
 - read labels and signs at the grocery store or during other activities to help your child recognize words.

Here are some questions you can ask as you read with your child.

Before You Begin Reading

- Look at the title and pictures. What do you think the book is about?

While You Are Reading

- What is happening in the story?
- What are the important ideas?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Are there any confusing words or parts?

After You Finish Reading

- What is your favourite part of the book?
- Who is your favourite character? Why?
- Do you want to learn more about this topic? Why?

What if my child does not understand?

- If the book is too difficult, choose another book at your child's level of understanding.
- If there are pictures, encourage your child to try to use the pictures to understand what the words in the book are describing.
- Ask your child if there are any words that he or she does not know. Help your child understand those words.
- Help your child use a dictionary or translation tool.