



Help Your Child Be A Better Reader

These are easy tips that will give you a better idea of how your child is doing in school and how well he or she is learning to read.

Reading aloud

- Try to set aside a regular time each day to read aloud. This should be at a time when the house is quiet and there are no disturbances.
- Use plenty of expression when reading. This isn't always easy, but it is worth the effort since children respond so well to it.
- Fathers should make an extra effort to read to their children. Since most early grades teachers are women, young boys sometimes associate women and reading. Books should be as popular as baseball gloves.
- If your child loses interest, don't be angry. Ask your child to choose another book or read at another time.
- Questions during reading should be encouraged. Answer them; it means your child is paying attention.
- Discuss the book afterwards by asking what your child liked or didn't like.

Paired reading—reading together

- Explain to your child that sometimes you will read aloud together and sometimes he or she will read alone.
- Select a simple signal that your child can give when he or she wants to read along. It can be a nudge or tap—anything that is simple and clear.
- Begin by reading together. Match your reading speed to that of your child.
- When your child wants to read alone, he or she gives you the signal. You then stop reading.
- When your child needs help, give the correct pronunciation. Then begin reading together until your child signals you that he or she wants to read alone again.
- Continue for 5 to 15 minutes

Reading comprehension

This is a simple idea that can be done anytime, anywhere—even riding in the car or walking down the street. Ask your child what he or she has been reading or working on at school. Don't take "nothing" for an answer. You might have to ask more questions in order for your child to begin talking. If possible avoid yes or no questions. Do this frequently—every day is possible.

Source: RMC Research, Denver Colorado.