

Tips for Sharing Books

The joy of sharing books is a gift you can give children from the time they are born. Chanting nursery rhymes, singing songs, and reading stories can comfort and entertain even the youngest child.

Parents, child care providers, teachers, and other adults interested in the development of young children have a wealth of good books from which to choose.

Here is a list of some of the best with easy-to-do tips developed by members of the Association for Library Services to Children, a division of the American Library Association.

Sharing books

- Helps create a special bond between parents and children
- Introduces children to art through the illustrations
- Enhances children's listening skills
- Introduces children to a wide variety of experiences
- Helps prepare children for learning to read
- Improves and enriches the quality of children's lives
- Provides fun and enjoyment for children and adults.

When to Share books

- Begin when your child is born
- Set aside a special time each day, such as nap time, bedtime, or after meals
- Share books when you and your child are in a relaxed mood
- Limit sharing time if your child becomes fussy or restless
- Take advantage of "waiting" times to share books—on trips, at the doctor's office, in line at the grocery store
- Soothe a child who is sick or cranky

How to share books

- Find a comfortable place to sit (a rocking chair is wonderful).
- Recite or sing rhymes from your favorite books
- Turn off other distractions – television, radio, or stereo
- Hold the books so your child can see the pages clearly
- Involve your child by having him or her point out objects, talk about the picture, or repeat common words
- Read with expression
- Vary the pace of your reading – slow or fast
- Have your child select books to read
- Reread your child's favorite books whenever asked

And remember...

- Be enthusiastic about books
- Be an example for your child-let her or him see you read books, too.
- Keep a wide selection of reading materials at home
- Be aware of your child's reading interests
- Give books as presents
- Begin to build a child's home library
- Get to know the children's librarian at your public library
- Use your local library regularly and register your child for a library card.

Reading Aloud to Kids is Secret to Success

Fox stresses the importance of nursery rhymes. As Fox writes: "Rhymers will be readers; it's that simple. Experts in literacy and child development have discovered that if children know eight nursery rhymes by heart by the time they're 4 years old, they're usually among the best readers by the time they're 8"

None of this is difficult and should be lots of fun for both the child and the parent, Fox says. In fact, it should be so fun that parents and children will want to continue the read-aloud sessions even when children are older and able to read by themselves, she adds.

"The fire of literacy is created by the emotional sparks between a child, a book and the person reading. It isn't achieved by the book alone, or by the child alone, or by the adult whose reading aloud—it's the relationship winding between all three, bringing them together in easy harmony." Fox says.

Reading books with Babies

- ☺ Read the words to the baby
- ☺ Look at the pictures and point to the objects in the book. If you have similar objects in your house, talk to the baby about these objects
- ☺ Hold the child on your lap as you read. Reading should be a warm nurturing experience for the baby.
- ☺ If the baby tires quickly and does not want to read anymore, **STOP** and put the book away for awhile. Try again in a few hours.
- ☺ Never force a child to read a book. Let the child's interest and attention guide how long you should read together.
- ☺ Vary the location where you read to the child. Read to him in his highchair, lying on the bed, sitting on your lap, or in the bathtub.
- ☺ Infants and toddlers like books that have other babies and baby faces in them, animal books, family books, stories that make them feel loved and secure, books about familiar objects in their environment, sensory and auditory books, transportation, independence skills, seasonal, and everyday routines and schedules.
- ☺ Read wordless picture books.
- ☺ Read mother goose books to stimulate sight, hearing, and rhythm. Sing the nursery rhymes as you have the routine times with your child like feeding, bathing, and diapering.
- ☺ **SING AND READ.** Remember that speech and music are stored in separate parts of the brain. Singing a nursery rhyme will widen a child's early learning.
- ☺ Created by Julia Mohr Director, Child Care Resource and Referral Mountainland, 1-800-863-8220 or 1-800-952-8220



