



Read and Discuss Stories

WHY?

The more we read with young children, the more prepared they become to enjoy reading and to do well in school. It is never too early to begin reading! Stories expose children to words and ideas that they would not otherwise experience. Books teach children to use their imaginations. What they learn about people, places and things can be important building blocks to later life success. For both parents and children, times together with books form fond and lasting memories.

Tips for Infants (Newborn – 12 months)

Read Regularly

Make book time part of your baby's daily routine. They won't understand for a while, but that's fine. What is important is that they hear your words, see the pictures and start to develop positive feelings about books.

Keep It Simple

If you can, choose books that are sturdy, short and have simple, colorful pictures.

Snuggle Up

Hold your child in your lap as you read so they can see the pictures and feel cozy.

Describe the Pictures

With infants, you don't need to read the words on the pages. Instead, describe what is happening in the pictures. Talk about the colors, shapes and what the characters are doing. Point to the page when you do this.

Speak with Expression

Use an exaggerated voice to make it more interesting!

Actively Involve Them

As your baby develops coordination, involve them more in the reading experience. Let them hold the book or turn the pages.

Follow Their Lead

Let your child guide the reading experience. When they start to lose interest, try another book or stop. Not being forced to keep going will keep them excited about reading!

Name That

Name and talk about the parts of the pictures that your child points at or is interested in.

Show Your Interest

When you read, make an effort to show how interesting the story is to you by using your voice and facial expressions. Say "I want to know what happens on the next page."