
TIPS FOR READING WITH YOUR CHILD

FROM COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF CENTRAL TEXAS

- **It's never too early.** Reading can be a bonding activity for you and your new baby. Introduce reading in the very beginning, keep books in the home and have your books out for baby and toddler to see!
- **Set a goal to read with your child for 20 minutes every day.** Don't be discouraged if you skip a day or don't always keep to your schedule, just read to your child as often as you possibly can. Taking the time to read with your children on a regular basis sends an important message: Reading is worthwhile.
- **Pick a comfortable spot to read in** - one with plenty of light, and make it a routine - whether it's right before the breakfast, or right before bed, set aside a special time every day.
- **Give lots of encouragement!** Read the words aloud to your child. Point to the pictures. Say the words together. Laugh with your child. Make reading together fun.
- **The fun continues after the last page!** When you finish a story, talk with your child about his/her favorite passages, characters, and illustrations.
- **If you have more than one child, try to spend some time reading alone with each child,** especially if they're more than 2 years apart. There are also benefits to reading to children at different stages and ages at the same time. Most children enjoy listening to many types of stories.
- **When reading to very little children, guide your child by pointing to the pictures** and say the names of objects. Draw attention to pictures. At just a few months of age, an infant can look at pictures, listen to your voice, and point to objects on cardboard pages.
- **Even after children learn to read by themselves, it's still important for you to read aloud to them.**
- **You may go through a period when your child favors one book** and wants it read night after night. It is not unusual for children to favor a particular story, and this can be boring for parents. Keep in mind, however, that a favorite story may speak to your child's interests or emotional needs. Be patient.
- **Reading is important to success in school and in life.** Knowledge is power, and books are full of it. But reading is more than just a practical tool. Through books we can enrich our minds; we can also relax and enjoy some precious leisure moments. With your help, as your children begin a lifelong relationship with the printed word, they can grow into adults who read easily and frequently whether for business, knowledge, or pleasure.
- **Take the children to the library regularly.** Libraries are a wonderful place to find books and so much more. You can check out books for free and attend family friendly events at your local library. Austin Public Library locations have toddler or pre-school story times. Check in at your local library for times.

