

Ways to Explore Books



Strategies for reading aloud and sharing books with children

provided by Family Reading Partnership
www.familyreading.org



- Have children's books out within your child's reach for your child to hold, carry around, stack in a pile, and put on a shelf or in the toy box.
- Create a cozy spot to read. If possible choose a time when you and your child are relaxed. Read only as long as your child is interested.
- Read and cuddle! Reading books together provides an opportunity for growing closer together and sharing the experience.
- Before you've read a new book aloud, look at the pictures together. Your child can tell you a great story just by looking at what is happening in the illustrations. This is a chance for your child to be the storyteller, and you to be the listener.
- Read a book with no interruptions so your child gets the full meaning of the story. Start by reading the title, author and illustrator, then read it straight through without commenting on the pictures or words so that your child can hear the flow of the story and understand what is happening. This is a good way to read a book for the first time.
- Run your finger under the title, author's name, and illustrator's name as you read them so children can connect the spoken word with the written word.
- Make the book as exciting as possible. Bring the book to life and make the characters have different voices. Make the noises of the different animals. Ask the child to join in.
- Read it again and again! Children often connect with one book in a special way and it can be comforting for the child to know that a story is the same each time it is read.
- Read the book and pause to look at the pictures on each page. After your child knows a story, add more meaning by asking questions such as: What is this called? Or, what is going to happen next? Or, stop to explain what a new word means.
- Have your child retell the story in his or her own words. After your child knows a book well, have your child tell you the story as you turn the pages. You may be surprised at how many of the key words in a book your child remembers.
- Help your child create his or her own book. Fold a few pieces of paper in half and staple together for a homemade book. Your child can draw pictures and you can write in the words that your child dictates to you.
- Make connections: talk about how the stories you read together relate to your child's life. Point out to your child things in your everyday life that need to be read—signs, newspapers, emails, directions, etc.