



Make books special

Turn reading into something special. Take your kids to the library, help them get their own library card, read with them, and buy them books as gifts. Have a favorite place for books in your home or, even better, put books everywhere.

Don't leave home without it

Bring along a book or magazine any time your child has to wait, such as at a doctor's office. Always try to fit in reading!

Once is not enough

Encourage your child to re-read favorite books and poems. Re-reading helps kids read more quickly and accurately.

Dig deeper into the story

Ask your child questions about the story you've just read. Say something like, "Why do you think _____ did that?"

Take control of the television

It's difficult for reading to compete with TV and video games. Encourage reading as a free-time activity.

Be patient

When your child is trying to sound out an unfamiliar word, give him or her time to do so. Remind the child to look closely at the first letter or letters of the word and any parts your child may know.

I read to you, you read to me

Take turns reading aloud at bedtime. Kids enjoy this special time with their parents.

Stop and Discuss

Stop your child periodically as he or she is reading to ask about the pictures, what your child has read/learned so far, and what your child predicts will happen as he or she continues to read.

Play word games

Have your child sound out the word as you change it- for example: from mat to fat to sat; from sat to sag to sap; and from sap to sip.

One more time with feeling

When your child has sounded out an unfamiliar word, have him or her re-read that sentence. Often kids are so busy figuring out a word they lose the meaning of what they've just read.

Do storytelling on the go

Take turns adding to a story the two of you make up while riding in a car or bus. Try making the story funny or spooky.

Picture This!

During your next outing or gathering, take action-packed photos, then have your child create captions to go with each picture. Assemble the pictures and captions in a picture book or album, and add speech and thought bubbles to create a personalized - and probably hysterical - graphic novel.

Gently correct your reader

When your child makes a mistake, gently point out the letters he or she overlooked or read incorrectly. Ask your child, “does that look right?” or “does that make sense?”.

Talk, talk, talk!

Talk with your child every day about school and things going on around the house. Sprinkle some interesting words into the conversation, and build on words you’ve talked about in the past.

Write, write, write!

Ask your child to help you write out the grocery list, a thank you note to Grandma, or to keep a journal of special things that happen at home. When writing, encourage your child to use the letter and sound patterns he is learning at school.

Pick books that are at the right level

Children feel confident and competent when they read books that are “just right.” But how do you find a “just right” book? Have your child read the back and front cover, and first page of the book. If there are more than five words that he cannot pronounce or understand in context, the book may be too challenging. Be supportive about finding a more perfect fit. The aim is to give your child lots of successful reading experiences.

Labels of Love

Word recognition and vocabulary are important parts of reading. On a rainy day, get some paper and tape and start labeling everything in your home -- from furniture to small knick-knacks. Reading these labels repeatedly will build your child’s mental word bank. If your family is bilingual, create labels in both languages.

Compiled from:

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/more-reading-resources/reading-tips-parents>

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/reading-tips-parents-11-languages>

<http://www2.ed.gov/parents/read/resources/readingtips/index.html>