

BUILDING READERS®

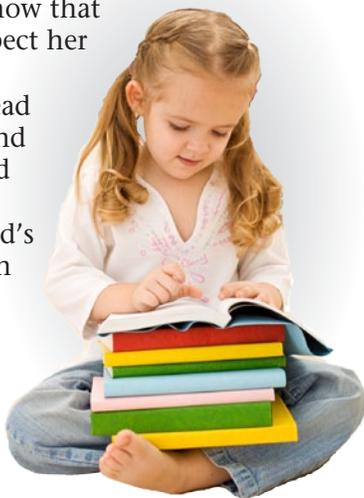
How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

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Get on the path to school success!

So what if your youngster is only in preschool? There's still plenty you can do now to help her succeed in "real" school later. To put your child on the path to academic accomplishment:

- **Set the bar high.** Let your child know that learning is essential and you expect her to do well.
- **Create a learning-friendly home.** Read together every night and surround your child with books, paper and crayons.
- **Be encouraging.** You are your child's number-one fan! Praise her when she does well, and comfort her when she stumbles.
- **Make school a priority.** Show your child that preschool is important. Attend school events. Read everything that she brings home.



*"I read for pleasure and that is the moment
I learn the most."*

—Margaret Atwood

Easy ways to motivate your young reader

There are numerous ways to keep your child excited about books and reading. Aside from making story time enjoyable and interesting, research shows that children are motivated to read by:

- **Previous experience.** Kids are often drawn to books they've had read to them before. If your child loved having you read a book once, he'll love it again and again.
- **Having access to books.** Head to the library often!
- **Making their own decisions.** When you're reading together, let your child choose between two books.
- **Hearing your suggestions.** If you come across a tale that would be just the thing for your child, offer to read it to him.

Source: Educational Research Service, *What We Know About: Effective Early Reading Instruction*, Educational Research Service.

Make family reading more dramatic and exciting!

Put a new spin on family reading time—make it theatrical!

To create some good-natured "drama" the next time the whole gang shares stories together:

- **Act it out.** Instead of simply reading that same tale for the hundredth time, try acting it out as a family. Add simple props or costumes, too. Don't be afraid to ham it up a bit!
- **Host a "book and movie" night.** After reading a favorite story, cuddle up and watch the movie version together.



Build on your child's interests and boost creativity

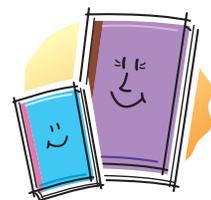
Pick one of your child's favorite stories. Help her think of a new adventure for the characters. Ask her to draw pictures to illustrate her story, and write a caption for each picture. Then, read her new story together!



Develop the reading habit

Show your child that reading is an important part of everyday life—and it's a fun thing to do! To make it easy for her to read every day:

- **Create** a special place for your child to look at books.
- **Take** books with you when you run errands.
- **Visit** the library often with your child. Choose new books together!



How to read an e-book with your child

We live in an increasingly digital age. From Kindles to websites full of e-books (electronic books), reading online is different than opening a picture book with your child. Instead of turning the page, your child may be swiping across a screen.



To successfully read an e-book with your child:

- **Recognize that e-books are different.** Let your child explore how the device works.
- **Focus on the story.** While e-books are full of exciting and fun features, don't forget what's most important: reading the story!
- **Don't let the device take over.** Reading an e-book will let your child interact with the book, but it's not a substitute for reading with you. As with all books, engage your child while you read by talking about what you see and asking questions.

Source: "How to Read an E-Book With Your Child," Reading Rockets, www.readingrockets.org/article/56082/.

Listening and speaking skills improve reading

Research shows that youngsters who have many opportunities to listen to and speak with others gain vital language skills. These skills are crucial parts of learning to read and write.

To help your preschooler develop these important skills:

- **Have conversations** with him. Ask questions that require him to think: "Why did you paint the bird green?"
- **Have him make predictions** about what might happen next in a story you're reading together based on what he's heard so far.
- **Play listening games.** Have him close his eyes, then see if he can identify various



sounds (an ambulance, wind chimes, etc.).

Source: "Teaching Our Youngest: Developing Listening and Speaking Skills," U.S. Department of Education, www.ed.gov/teachers/how/early/teaching_ouryoungest/page_pg6.html.



Q: I know that kids need to understand that words are made of sounds. How do I get this idea across to my preschooler?

A: The word-sound connection is important. To reinforce it with your child, have fun with words! Use funny voices to stress different letter sounds in words. Read books and sing songs that have rhymes. Rhymes show how simple sound changes can create new words.

Do you have a question about reading? Email readingadvisor@parent-institute.com.

Rereading favorite books creates positive reading experiences

When your child chooses what book he wants to read, chances are it'll be one you've read over and over. Children often choose familiar books to read and reread because they enjoy a sense of control over the experience. When a child knows what to expect in a book, he can anticipate what will come next and then be satisfied by knowing the outcome.



Source: "Read It Again!" Scholastic.com, <http://tinyurl.com/cb2n8fx>.

Books to delight your early reader

- **Dinosaur Kisses** by David Ezra Stein (Candlewick). Dinah the Dinosaur is learning how to stomp and chomp. But she has some trouble when she tries to give other creatures kisses.
- **Katy Duck, Flower Girl** by Alyssa Satin Capucilli (Simon Spotlight). Katy Duck gets to be a flower girl in a wedding. So of course she has to practice being a flower!
- **Secret Pizza Party** by Adam Rubin (Dial). Raccoon loves pizza, but the only way he can enjoy it is by planning a super secret pizza party. *Shhh*—don't tell anyone!



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