

FHSR

Foundation for Hearing and Speech Resources

EARLY LITERACY



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT [FHSR.ORG](https://www.fhsr.org)
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Early Literacy Tips for Parents

Why is reading to your child important?

Reading to your child builds pre-literacy skills, print concepts, phonological awareness, language development and relationships!

“The age at which parents begin reading to their children is correlated with children’s language development; children who are read to from an early age tend to have higher scores on language measures later on.”-Duursma et al. (2008)

“Children listening to a read aloud of a picture book are roughly three times more likely to experience a new word type that is not among the frequent words in the child’s language.”- Massaro (2017)

Tips for reading with your child:

For babies:

- Use Tummy Time and place open books on either side of their head.
- Use high-contrast books. Babies can’t see every color or parse what they are seeing; high-contrast books give them something interesting to look at while they start to make sense of their world.
- Use the same books over and over: familiarity and repetition are key to the whole reading process.

First reading:

- Make sure the child has the language to understand what they are looking at and build off of that.
- Identify and label what is on the page.
- Elaborate on what is happening in the story, incorporating what the child says.
- Make what is implied explicitly stated.
- Follow the child’s lead - comment on what interests them.
- Adjust reading style to fit the story.
- Connect to the child’s life and experiences.

Rereading:

- Add in more information each time, getting closer to the actual text.
- Connect the text to what you read - point out repeated words and phrases.
- Explain the story without worrying about the actual words.
- Add dialogue or narration.
- Add motivations - why is a character doing that?
- Ask questions and leave wait time even if the child isn’t answering.

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Tips for reading with your child Con't:

When signing with your child:

- Use variations of ASL for repetitive phrases.
- Adjust sign style and placement to your child's level.
- Incorporate fingerspelling even if they don't know their letters yet.

Ways to sit and read with your child:



Regardless of the communication mode or what you are reading, try to keep yourself and the text visible at all times!

Because your child has your undivided attention during the reading process, they will learn to value and enjoy the activity. You can maximize the physical elements of reading with them to make a lasting impression, encourage an interest in books, and foster positive bonding:

- Read with emotion and let them see your facial expressions.
- Let your child feel your breath and movement as you read with them.

Do you have questions or need more support?
Contact CHSYouth@anixter.org or atess@fhsr.org