



TIPS Preschoolers

for parents of

Read early and read often. The early years are critical to developing a lifelong love of reading. You can't start reading to a child too soon! The tips below offer some fun ways you can help your child become a happy and confident reader. Try a new tip each week. See what works best for your child.

- u Read together every day.**
Read to your child every day. Make this a warm and loving time when the two of you can cuddle close.
- u Give everything a name.**
Build comprehension skills by playing games that involve naming objects. Say things like, "Where's your nose?" Or touch your child's nose and say, "What's this?"
- u Say how much you enjoy reading.**
Tell your child how much you enjoy reading with him or her. Talk about "story time" as the favorite part of your day.
- u Read with fun in your voice.**
Read to your child with humor and expression. Use different voices. Ham it up!
- u Know when to stop.**
Put the book away for awhile if your child loses interest or is having trouble paying attention.
- u Be interactive.**
Discuss what's happening in the book, point out things on the page, and ask questions.
- u Read it again and again.**
Go ahead and read your child's favorite book for the 100th time!
- u Talk about writing, too.**
Mention to your child how we read from left to right and how words are separated by spaces.
- u Point out print everywhere.**
Talk about the written words you see in the world around you. Ask your child to find a new word on each outing.
- u Get your child evaluated.**
Please be sure to see your child's pediatrician or teacher as soon as possible if you have concerns about your child's language development, hearing, or sight.

"Reading Rockets: Launching Young Readers" is a five-part television series on PBS. See www.pbs.org/launchingreaders for more information on how you can launch a child into a bright future with reading strategies that work.