



The ABC's Of Reading To and With Your Child

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- A**sk questions while reading together. "What do you think will happen next?"
- B**uy books as gifts for birthdays, Christmas, Hanukkah, or other holidays.
- C**hat about what is happening in the book and how it relates to everyday life.
- D**rop everything and read. Set aside 20 minutes a day during which the whole family reads.
- E**xamine book illustrations in detail. Select books that have large, bright pictures.
- F**ind books that interest your child. Make suggestions, but don't turn reading into work.
- G**ive hints when your child gets stuck on a word.
- H**ave fun. Smile and enjoy the story. Read with a slow, relaxed voice and be expressive.
- I**nvite your child to the bookstore. Take time to lounge in the chairs and browse the books.
- J**oin in your child's reading successes. Celebrate every small step with sincere praise.
- K**ids love to receive mail. Send your child a magazine subscription in an area that interests him/ her.
- L**earn to read with, and not just to, your child daily. Read aloud, share ideas, and answer questions.
- M**odel reading. Share with your child, whether you're reading for information or for entertainment.
- N**ever force your child to read. If you're both too tired and discouraged to read, take a break.
- O**ffer your child a variety of reading materials; books, magazines, cereal boxes, comics, newspapers.
- P**redict story elements, draw conclusions, and retell the story with your child.
- Q**uiz your child at the end of a story. Informally, of course!
- R**eread books to familiarize your child with words and to build self-confidence.
- S**ing songs, recite poetry, and do fingerplays to help develop language and listening skills.
- T**ry to help your child understand that it's okay to make mistakes.
- U**nderstand that reading is developmental and that it takes time and practice to become fluent.
- V**isit your local library on a regular basis. Sign your child up for his or her own library card.
- W**elcome wordless picture books into your collections. They generate conversation and allow the nonreader to create his or her own stories.
- X**hibit patience when your child is selecting books. Your support is empowering.
- Y**ou are the most important person in helping your child develop a lifelong love of reading.
- Z**ealous readers are the result of supportive and nurturing role models.