

READING WITH YOUR CHILD



Dear Parents:

How often does your child see you reading a newspaper, a book, or a magazine? By reading at home, you are showing your child that reading is an important and enjoyable experience. Another enjoyable experience is reading to your child. This can be a valuable part of your daily routine. The more you read to your child, the more they will develop a desire to read.

When you read to your child, the child is learning much more than just what happens in the story. As children hold and handle books, they learn how to turn the pages, where the story begins and ends, and how a story is told. As children become interested in books, they become curious about the words and pictures in the books. This is a first step in their becoming readers. Children who have a favorite book often ask for re-readings of that book. Re-readings help them become familiar with words and their meaning – an important step in learning to read.

Children love guessing what will happen next in a story or what will appear next in the pictures. Books with short, simple, repeated words allow children to do this.

Here are some suggestions for where and when to read to your child:

1. **Find a quiet place.** Select a quiet place and time for reading so your child will be able to listen without distractions.
2. **Be comfortable.** Informal seating together on a couch, a bed, or the floor promote a feeling of closeness while reading.
3. **Read every day.** You can communicate the pleasure of a good story by spending 10 to 20 minutes a day reading. You and your child will look forward to this happy time together.

How to read to your child:

1. **Begin with a smile.** As you begin to read, let your child know that you enjoy the time together.
2. **Read slowly.** Read in a low, relaxed voice, using expression where it is called for in a story. Your child will enjoy repeating favorite phrases with you. Encourage your child to join in the reading.

3. **Repeat words.** Your child may learn words that are repeated in a story. Call attention to words that are repeated frequently and encourage your child to say them with you as he or she recognizes them.
4. **Ask questions.** Children enjoy being involved in a story. As you read, ask “What do you think will happen next?” or “Why do you think the bear is mad?” The conversation that goes with reading aloud is as important as the reading itself. Discuss the story with your child and ask questions that draw attention to pictures, require thinking and interpretation, elicit prediction, and relate the story to everyday life.

What to read with your child:

1. **Read enjoyable books.** Select book that you and your child will enjoy. Think about your child’s interests and experiences as you make selections. The public library will be happy to help you find and choose good books for your child
2. **Read a variety of books.** Sharing storybooks, wordless books, pop-up books, nursery rhymes, and poetry will give your child a sense of the wide variety of enjoyment that reading can bring.
3. **Use picture books.** Children like picture books with large illustrations that they can examine in detail. They like to recognize objects from their own experiences.
4. **Read predictable books.** Predictable books are books with predictable, repetitive texts. They can help children make predictions, draw conclusions, and retell stories.
5. **Reread stories.** Read your child’s stories over and over again.

Enjoy reading with your child!



Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Staff