



Reading to Your Child

How to read a book to your child....

- ❖ Show enthusiasm as you read. Reading should not be turned into a chore.
- ❖ Try to read to your child every day.
- ❖ Take advantage of times when your child is relaxed and ready for a low-key activity, such as at bedtime or after a nap.
- ❖ Let your child choose the books and pages to read.
- ❖ Point to the pictures as you talk about them.
- ❖ Let the child help hold the book and turn the pages.
- ❖ Tell a familiar story, but leave out words so your child can fill in the blanks.
- ❖ Let your child tell the story to you by describing the pictures.
- ❖ Ask your child to make up a story or to finish one that you have started.
- ❖ Write down a story your child tells you and read it back to him or her.
- ❖ If your child sometimes does not show an interest in reading, allow him or her to play quietly while you continue to read. Eventually he or she will again be eager to participate in reading.
- ❖ Define any new words that your child does not understand.

How to choose a good book for your child....

- ❖ Stories should be appropriate for your child's age level. Content, length of the story, and vocabulary should all be considered.
- ❖ Many school or public libraries offer lists of books by age range and subject matter.
- ❖ Pictures should be clear with not too many objects on a page.
- ❖ The pictures should tell a story that makes sense without the printed words.
- ❖ For children who are less excited about reading, try finding books that include his or her interests (cars, fish, etc).
- ❖ Books should help add new words to your child's vocabulary.
- ❖ Stories should be for pleasure and fun, but can include educational books, too. Some books may teach new speech sounds, concepts (farm animals, colors, etc), or morals (how to share, make friends, etc).

