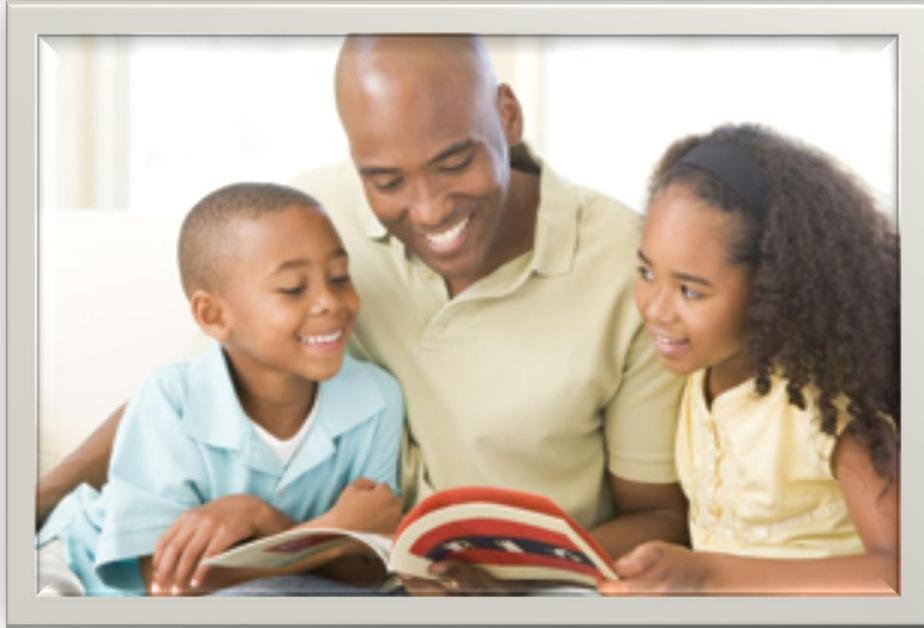


Helping Your Child Become a Reader



Adapted From: When a Child Reads... Some Answers to Your
Questions by Denise Worthington

Tip #1

Read with/to your child:

Read! Studies have shown that a child who has been read to grasps the idea early on that print contains a message. Books have a language all of their own. The more stories that are read to your child, the better. Bedtime stories not only provide a world of adventure; they give a child wonderful memories of a sense of closeness with a loved one. Read with your child at least 15-20 minutes a day.



Tip #2

Get your child interested in reading:

Encourage your child to read to you. Read books brought home from school with your child. Have them look at pictures and make predictions on what the story is about or what might happen next. After reading the story, discuss what happened. This helps your child think about what they are reading and be more involved in the story. Help your child become more aware of words by labeling things around the house. Label the light switches with "on" and "off" and the doors with "in" and "out". Label the appliances in the kitchen. Words are all around us!



Tip #3

Use pictures to read:

Experts have learned that good readers check the pictures for clues to the story. That is why the teacher encourages your child to use pictures for help. Don't cover the pictures if your child is using them to help read a story, instead encourage it! Good readers use every available avenue to help them read and understand.



Tip #4

Encourage your child to point to the words:

Pointing is one of the first strategies a beginning reader can use to check his reading. Pointing helps your child remember to really look at the words. Pointing helps the child to focus and notice details of written language. As reading skills develop your child may be able to point with his/ her eyes, but in the early stages you should encourage pointing with the finger to track the words on a page. Pointing is a great tool to help your child learn to read!



Tip #5

Memorizing:

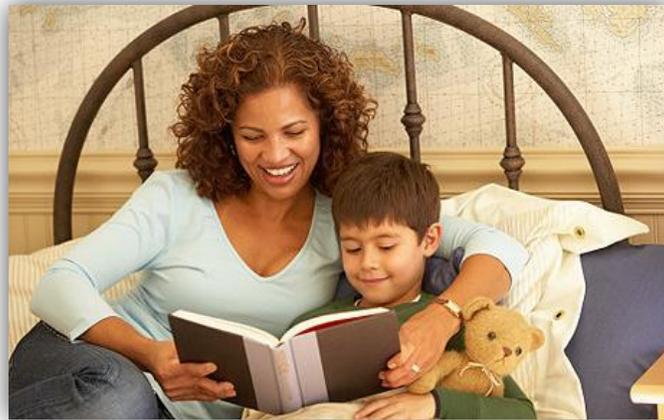
Is memorizing reading? Memorizing is an early part of a child's reading development. Think of it as a stage. Toddlers benefit from memorizing nursery rhymes. Beginning readers often match their speech to the printed words in a familiar rhyme. Repeated phrases in more difficult books are easily memorized by the child. It is a helpful strategy because it helps the child focus on the changing parts of the story and move quickly through the predictable lines. A child's memory for text builds fluency and helps him/her read more smoothly.



Tip #6

Sounding it out:

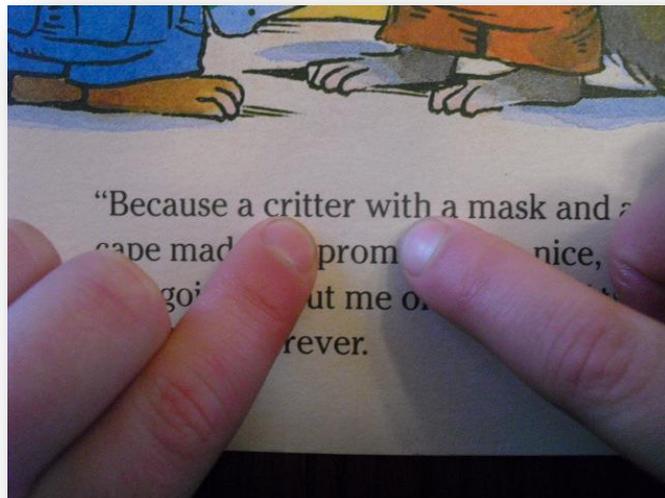
Knowing the sound a letter makes is very important. But if we sounded out every word, reading would be very laborious and not much fun. It's better to have children use beginning and ending sounds, as well as the context of the story and looking for chunks they know in the word—these strategies help prevent “sounding out” every word. Sounding out a word every now and then is a good strategy, but if your child is having to sound out every word in a book—the book is too hard. Remember, we want reading to be fun!



Tip #7

Ways you can help your child figure out a word:

There are many things you can do if your child gets "stuck" on a word. You could have your child check the picture for clues as to what the word could be. You may also have your child look at the first letter of the unknown word or parts of the word, have them say the letter sound or the part of the word they know, and think about what makes sense or what makes the story sound right. Re-reading is another good way to figure out an unknown word—have your child go back to the beginning of the sentence and re-read to see if they can figure out the unknown word. If your child tries for 5-6 seconds and still can't figure it out, simply tell them the word and move on.



Remember:

Reading Should Be Fun!!



There are lots of things you can do to help your beginning reader. Remember, reading should always be fun—so relax and enjoy! A frustrated reader is a reader who is not going to take necessary risks to improve their skills. A reader is like an athlete. The more a child reads the better their reading becomes!!

Read with your child every day!!