

READING



Facts about Reading

- Reading together is important! You are your child's first and best teacher. If you show your child that reading is important, they will think it is important, too.
- Reading skills begin at birth . . . language and literacy go hand in hand.
- When children look at picture books before they can read the words on the page, they are working on important skills that will lead to reading.
- Reading the same book over and over helps children connect spoken words to the text on the page.



Books That Encourage Reading

- ***The Very Hungry Caterpillar*** –Eric Carle
- ***Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons*** –James Dean; Eric Litwin
- ***Bark, George*** –Jules Feiffer
- ***If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*** –Laura Numeroff; Felicia Bond
- ***The Lion and the Mouse*** –Jerry Pinkney



Approaches to Learning

A child's attitude about learning—especially reading—impacts how successful he/she will be. When children are taught that reading is fun, they are much more likely to want to learn, and more likely to continue reading as they become older. How children perceive reading has a big impact on all areas of learning. It is important to make learning fun, and for your child to see you enjoying reading and learning, as well.



Activities That Encourage Reading

- Read together 20 minutes per day. Research shows that this simple practice has a big impact on a child's success as a reader later.
- Create a cozy space for your child to read. Place books on a shelf that is easy for them to reach. Have a "reading time" every day when you read a book and your child reads a book alone. Modeling this type of reading will help develop your child's reading skills later.
- Read signs when you are out with your child. Children will recognize familiar print—this is a child's first step toward reading.
- Read wordless books together. Ask your child to read the story to you through the actions in the pictures. This offers your child the opportunity to be the narrator and helps to develop language, communication, and literacy skills.
- Choose books to read to your child that you find enjoyable. If you enjoy a book, chances are your child will, too. When reading is fun, it has a much more positive impact on a child!



Language and Communication

Reading together fosters language skills, and introduces new ideas and concepts to your child. Encouraging your child to participate in reading through asking questions helps children to develop their own story-telling and narrative skills. Interactive reading also helps a child learn the sequence of events and helps them to see the connection between the words and the pictures on the page. When adults read to children, this provides practice with listening skills and making sense of the information they hear.



Session 3: Reading

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Create a cozy area with books for your child to sit and read with you.		Visit the library! Check out a few rhyming books to read together.		Let your child see you reading. Talk about why you enjoy reading.		When you read to your child, ask questions about what might happen in the story.
	Re-read books together. Young children learn best through repetition.		Show your child how to hold a book and turn the pages.		Read your favorite book from childhood. Share memories from your childhood.	
Read a nonfiction book about an animal. Talk about the animal's habitat.		Visit the library! Check out a book about the library.		Read a wordless book. Encourage your child to tell you what is happening in the pictures.		Make a book with paper. Encourage your child to draw pictures to tell the story.
	Go on a letter scavenger hunt. Encourage your child to find every letter of the alphabet.		Talk with your child about the author and illustrator of the book you read together.		Choose a book you enjoy reading—when you have fun, your child learns to love reading, too.	
Point to words as you read them. This helps your child connect your language to the words on the page.		Visit the library! Check out books about things that your child is interested in.				

Early Literacy Practice: Reading

The activities this month will help you prepare your child for becoming a successful reader. In order for children to develop reading skills, it is important for them to be read to. Taking 20 minutes per day to read together helps children understand that text on a page has meaning; develop a love for reading; recognize letters; develop listening and language skills; and helps them learn new words.