



The ABCs of Reading To and With Your Child

A - Ask questions while reading together. "What do you think will happen next?"

B - Buy books as gifts for birthdays, Christmas, Hanukkah, or other holidays

C - Chat about what is happening in the book and how it relates to everyday life.

D - Drop everything and read. Set aside 20 minutes a day during which the whole family reads.

E - Examine book illustrations in detail. Select books that have large, bright pictures.

F - Find books that interest your child. Make suggestions, but don't turn reading into work.

G - Give hints when your child gets stuck on a word.

H - Have fun! Smile and enjoy the story. Read with a slow, relaxed voice and be expressive.

I - Invite your child to the bookstore. Take time to lounge in the chairs and browse the books.

J - Join in your child's reading successes. Celebrate every small step with sincere praise.

K - Kids love to receive mail. Send your child a magazine subscription in an area that interests him or her.

L - Learn to read with, and not just to, your child daily. Read aloud, share ideas, and answer questions.

M - Model reading. Share with your child, whether you're reading for information or entertainment.

N - Never force your child to read. If you're both too tired or discouraged to read, take a break.

O - Offer your child a variety of reading materials, such as books, magazines, cereal boxes, comics and newspapers.

Predict - Predict story elements, draw conclusions, and retell the story with your child.

Q - Quiz your child at the end of a story. Informally, of course!

R - Reread books to familiarize your child with words and to build self-confidence.

S - Sing songs, recite poetry, and do finger plays to help develop language and listening skills.

T - Try to help your child understand that it's okay to make mistakes.

U - Understand that reading is developmental and that it takes time and practice to become fluent.

V - Visit our local library on a regular basis. Sign your child up for his or her own library card.

W - Welcome wordless picture books into your collections. They generate conversation and allow the nonreader to create his or her own stories.

X - Exhibit patience when your child is selecting books. Your support is empowering.

Y - You are the most important person in helping your child develop a lifelong love of reading.

Z - Zealous readers are the result of supportive and nurturing role models.