



Tip Sheet

HELPING YOUR YOUNG CHILD WITH READING

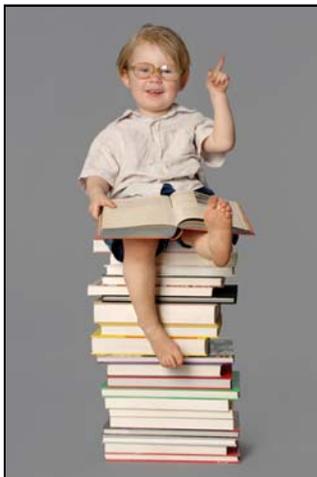


The Need To Read!

Picture and word clues, sounds of letters, and voice inflection are just some of the tools at your disposal when you're helping a young child to read. There are many ways you can help your child with reading. When you are helping your child, use a book that he can read without too much difficulty.

Pictures Tell A Story

Use picture clues from the book. If your child says, "the bird sat on the porch" rather than, "the parrot sat on the perch," here are some things you can do. Help your child by saying, "You read that really well, but let's look at a couple of things." Encourage your child to look at the pictures and point to the word that matches the picture. Say, "You're right. That is a picture of a bird, but let's take a look at the picture. What kind of a bird is that? Do you know?" Try to get your child to say "parrot," but if she is not sure after some prompting, then tell her.



A Positive Attitude

Every day we have a choice about the attitude we will have. Attitude is the way we see and feel about things, and it is one of the few things in life that we can control. Attitude affects the way we act, how we look, and how happy we are.

When you have a positive attitude, this will influence your child's motivation. Motivated children want to be successful in school. So be enthusiastic, respect others, show an interest in learning, and encourage your children. This will go a long way in helping your child be successful in school.

It is especially important to make sure experiences related to school are positive. If your child struggles with reading or other school activities, continue to always give words of encouragement. Remember to smile and keep a positive attitude when working with your child. Attitude is everything.

Apple, Apple, AAAAA!



Another way to help is by teaching your child the sounds of letters. You can help your child make the correction by emphasizing the beginning sound. Confusing a “b” and “p” is common for beginning readers. Point to the word “parrot” and ask your child to say the sounds that letter makes. If he is having trouble, say it and then let your child try. If your child said parakeet instead of parrot, have your child look at the picture, and stress the letter sounds at the end of the word. The word “perch” may be unfamiliar to your child. He may have never seen a perch before, so talk about it. To help your child with any confusion between porch and perch, you can also work with the “or” and “er” sounds.

Flash Cards

Flash cards are a great way to build your child’s word bank. Keep a supply of small cards and a marker handy when you are reading a story with your child. Write words like “on” and “in” on the cards and add them to your child’s word bank. Add other words from the story for more practice. Review the words with your child to build her vocabulary.

Left To Right

One way to teach your child left to right progression is to take his index finger and run it underneath the words as you read across the page. It also helps develop a sense of rhythm or pace for the story’s narrative. As we all know, sometimes it’s much slower, depending upon what’s going on in the story line. Changes in voice inflection add interest to the story and help your child comprehend when something significant is happening.



Great Job!

Praise your child for a job well done. If your child is having difficulty on every page, you may want to read the book to your child. You can also ease the pressure by taking turns reading.



Quality Time

Spend time talking about what you have read. Ask questions that make your child think, not just answer yes or no. Relate the story to experiences your child has had. Spend about thirty minutes talking about the book and reading together. Always consult with your child’s teacher if her reading does not improve. You and your child’s teacher are partners in helping your child be a capable reader.

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