



Parents in the Know

Focus on Early Reading

Supporting Reading

The simplest and most important way you can encourage your child's love of reading is by reading. Read, read, and read some more. Read to your child, read with your child, and let your child see you reading for pleasure. If you want your child to value reading, you have to show him that you do!



<http://parenting4tomorrow.blogspot.com/2011/11/10-reasons-to-read-aloud-to-your.html>

Encouraging Language



Reading with your child is very important. However, there are other things that you can do that will also help develop your child's language skills.

Tell your child stories. This helps build a love of language and provides an opportunity for you and your child to talk.

Talk with your child. Look for opportunities daily to talk with your child about the world around her. One easy idea is turn off the t.v. for a night and take a walk!

Visit the library regularly. Libraries provide wonderful children's programs and resources for free! The more people that your child talks with and the more language that she hears the better.

Word Families



Teaching your child word families is a great way to help him learn to read many words quickly. The word family is the rhyme or ending chunk of the word such as "at" in the word cat. If your child can read "at", he most likely can also read bat, cat, fat, hat, mat, nat, pat, rat, sat, and vat.

Some good word families to start with include: ack, ake, am, an, at, et, ick, ig, in, ip, og, op, uck, and ug.

Learning to Read



The process of learning to read is a complex one! Reading includes:

Phonics: The relationship between sounds and letters

Word Recognition: Identifying high-frequency and sight words

Fluency: Reading without pausing

Comprehension: Understanding what was read

Spelling and Writing: Using what you have learned to create something new



What Research Says

Joyce Epstein has written extensively about different types of parent involvement. Being involved through your job in parenting is incredibly important. However, there are other things you can do also. The six types of parent involvement include:

1. Parenting
2. Communicating
3. Volunteering
4. Learning at home
5. Decision making
6. Collaborating with the community

Early Reading

Encouraging Writing

There are lots of things you can do to encourage your child to write daily.

- * Write stories together
- * Buy your child a journal or notebook
- * Provide your child with markers or special art supplies to illustrate his stories
- * Put notes in your child's lunchbox or around the house
- * Play word games like Scrabble
- * Encourage your child to write for a purpose, such as a letter to a friend or relative



<http://www.earlymoments.com/Promoting-Literacy-and-a-Love-of-Reading/Why-Reading-to-Children-is-Important/>

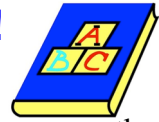
Educational Electronic Toys

Parenting magazine lists their picks for best educational electronic toys. Some include:

- LeapFrog Scribble and Write (Ages 3-5)
- VTech Tote & Go Laptop (Ages 3-6)
- LeapFrog Tab Reading System (Ages 4+)
- LeapFrog Explorer (Ages 4+)
- LeapFrog LeapPad Explorer Learning Tablet (Ages 4-9)
- VTech InnoTab (Ages 4-9)
- VTech Brilliant Creations Notebook (Ages 5-8)
- Fascinations First Time Clock Puzzle (Ages 6+)
- Loopz (Ages 7+)
- Scrabble Flash Cubes (Ages 8+)
- Rubik's Slide (Ages 8+)



Reach Out and Read!



Reach Out and Read is an organization that works with doctors across the country to encourage parents and children to read together. They offer the following tips:

Read everyday. Young children may not want to sit for long periods of time. Starting off with a few minutes a day is fine.

Talk about what you are reading. You don't have to read the story word for word. Look at the pictures and talk about what interests your child.

Use voices and show excitement as you read. Have fun with the story!

Ask questions as you read. Help your child learn new words and practice things that she already knows such as colors and household objects.

Encourage your child to tell the story. Sharing a book is a great way to encourage language development in young children. Ask your child to tell you what she sees.

Let your child turn the pages. This helps her pay attention and stay involved in the story.



Book Corner

Spotlight on Phonics Series

Your library carries several series to help you work on phonics with your child. A few of the best series are:

Word Family Tales, by Scholastic
Sounds Like Reading, by Brian Cleary
Usborne Phonics Readers

“A book is the most effective weapon against intolerance and ignorance.”

Lyndon B. Johnson