Reading Tips for Parents & Educators

Below are some "doctor-recommended" reading tips for parents with young children, courtesy of Reach Out & Read National. We encourage all parents to make reading with their child(ren) part of their daily routine.

For Babies

Make reading part of every day
Read at bedtime, read on the bus or train, read before a nap, read any time!

A few minutes is okay
Young children can only sit for a few minutes for a story, but as they grow, they will sit longer.

Talk about the pictures
You do not have to read the book to tell a story.

Make silly sounds
Grab an animal book & practice making animal noises together.

Show your child the words
Run your finger under the words as you read them.

Let your child turn the pages
Babies need help to turn pages of board books, but when your child is 3 yrs old can do it alone.

For children 2 yrs +

Ask questions about the story
What do you think will happen next?
What is this?

Let your child ask questions
Use the story as an opportunity to engage in conversation about familiar activities & objects.

Let your child tell the story
Children as young as 3 yrs old can memorize a story, & many children love an opportunity to express their creativity.

Relatable books
Select books that relate to what is happening in your child’s world – starting preschool, going to the dentist, or moving to a new home.

Take advantage of your local library
Sign your child up for a library card & expose them to thousands more children’s books. Check to see if the library offers story hours or special events!

Have fun with your child!
Create voices for the story characters & use your body to tell the story.

REACHOUTANDREADIL.ORG