

## Tips on Reading to Children

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1. The most important activity for building success in reading is parents or family members reading aloud to children.
2. Children should be read to from infancy through teenage years. Don't stop reading to children even after they can read to themselves.
3. It is important for children to see their parents and other family members reading (books, newspapers, magazines, letters, fliers, etc.). Children learn from what is modeled, not just from what they are told.
4. Any time spent reading, is time well spent.
5. Motivation is one of the keys to learning to read. Children who love stories and books are highly motivated to read, even if they find it hard going.
5. It is important to read nursery rhymes and poetry often to children. Children enjoy memorizing rhymes and poems, particularly those that "play" with words.
5. Parents should carry books with them whenever they go any place with their children. When stuck in a line, waiting for an event to happen, waiting at the bus stop, sitting at the doctor's office, a book is a wonderful way to help pass the time quickly.
6. When traveling with children in the car or on the bus, read all the print that you see along the road. Very young children can recognize and read McDonalds, Burger King, exit, stop, go. As they grow older they get to know and read street signs.
7. Play games with words and letters with children. Some children like to look for the A,B,C's in road signs and on car license plates.
8. When grocery shopping with children, help them read the names of food items and ask them to help find the items on the shelves.
9. When children become beginning readers, have patience. Do not expect them to be able to know or memorize every word. If they "read" (tell) the whole page from memory, that is a beginning step. Encourage them to sound out words. But don't let them lose track of the meaning of the story by insisting that every word they are stuck on must be sounded out. It is all right to tell children the words.