

Reading with Your Child

Children's Therapy

Reading with your child at home is a great way to promote their language and literacy skills. Here are specific book recommendations to promote your child's language from infancy to elementary. Take 20 minutes of every day to focus on your child's language and literacy development.

Babies/Toddlers

- Early exposure to books and reading instills interest in reading and is an excellent opportunity to expand and enrich early language.
- To promote your infant's language development, focus on pointing out objects or actions in the picture.
- You can promote early literacy concepts such as learning to hold the book upright and turn pages.
- When selecting books for infants, consider books that are sturdy (easier to hold for infants and more durable) and interactive books that can include different textures or lift-up flaps.
- Book ideas: *Peek-A-Who*; *Moo Baa La La La*; *Goodnight Moon*; *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*; *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*

Preschool

- During preschool years focus on increasing inflection to make reading fun and include books of specific interest such as trains, dinosaurs, or animals. Children may be interested in reading the same book several times, repetition of the same book is good at this age.
- To promote your preschool child's language, continue to focus on naming objects in books but expanding to include descriptive details such color, number, and shapes. Practice identifying emotions with your child and relate emotions to personal experiences.
- You can include literacy elements while reading such as identifying sounds, identifying letters, and words that rhyme.
- Book Ideas: *Cat in the Hat*; *Little Blue Truck*; *My Big Animal Book*; *Clifford series*; *Curious George series*, *Berenstain Bears series*

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Early Elementary

- At this age, children may begin reading parts of the story on their own.
- With a focus on reading and language skills, continue to work on identifying emotions, making predictions, relating story lines to personal experiences and discussing early moral issues within books.
- While literacy skills continue to develop, you can support development by focusing on identifying letter and sounds, rhyming and silly tongue twisters, sounding out words, and breaking words apart by sounds.
- Take turns reading with your child. This will give them a break from reading and allow you to model fluent reading for your child, as well as informally practicing turn-taking.
- Book Ideas: *Bob books*; *Pete the Cat series*; *Fly Guy series*; *Amelia Bedelia series*; *Magic Tree House series*; *Junie B. Jones series*

Later Elementary

- As your child gets older, continue to target books at their reading level to promote success and joy of reading.
- To support language development, continue to focus on concepts such as the main idea, main characters, plot, making inferences, and making predictions.
- Expose children to a variety of book types, including both fiction and nonfiction stories.
- Books Ideas: *Diary of a Wimpy Kid series*; *I Survived series*; *Who Was series*; *Harry Potter series*

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