

Help Your Preschooler Learn to Read

Parents want their children to be good readers. Kids with good reading skills have more success at school and in life. Everyday activities give parents a chance to teach their child how to read.

Children learn words when they talk with caring adults.

- Talk with your child during the day. Find and read road signs during car rides. Explain the steps of daily chores. Tell a story at bath time. Make talking part of your daily routine.
- Listen to your child. Respond. Repeat his words to let him know you hear him. This encourages conversation.

Children model their parents' actions.

- Show your child you like to read. Let him see you read books, newspapers, and magazines.
- Teach your child that reading is a good waiting activity. Carry a reading bag when you leave home. Include your child's favorite books and a few new ones.
- Visit your local library often. Check out books for you and your child. Let him pick out books.

Children love hands on activities.

- Make alphabet crafts. For example, copy a letter on one side of a card. Give your child a magazine. Let him find pictures that begin with the letter. He can glue the picture to the back of the card.
- Write lists – grocery, shopping, and chores. Ask her to make her own lists. She can use pictures. Have crayons, markers and scrap paper on hand.



How to Read to a Preschooler

A child's attention span increases each year. Most preschoolers can listen to a 30- minute story. *Make reading a daily activity*, not a special treat. Help your child develop a love for reading.

- Give him picture books. He loves pictures more than words. Talk about the pictures. Tell him what you think. Ask him what he thinks.
- Read with expression. Make faces. Use hand gestures. Be loud. Be soft. *Do not, however, use baby talk.* Make it fun.
- Find non-fiction books about her interests. She may love animals, stars, buildings or big machines.
- Introduce him to chapter books. Find a book with a fun main character. He may enjoy *Stuart Little* by E.B. White or *A Cricket in Times Square* by George Selden.
- Point to words as you read.

*Brought to you by Parent Help Line at HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital
to help keep kids safe, healthy and happy.*



Call the Parent Help Line. Help is just a phone call away.

1-217-544-5808 or 1-888-727-5889
10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7 days a week
www.parenthelpline.org

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