

Reading Conventionally With Your Child

How To Start

Early success with their first books helps children to become good readers. Here are some ways you can help to make reading easy and fun for your new conventional reader!

Before Reading the Story:

- Find a comfortable place where you and your child can look at the book together.
- Look at the books cover and say the title. You might talk to each other about the character and what's happening in the picture.
- Do a "picture walk" through the pages with your child. This means you look through the pictures together so that your child can see what happens in the story before reading the words. Your conversation may go something like this, "Let's see what the character is doing on this page" or "What else do you see in this picture?"

While Reading the Story:

- Often it is helpful to read the first page or so aloud to your child, placing your finger under each word as you read it.
- Let your child touch the words and read the rest of the story. Give him or her time to figure out each new word.
- If your child gets stuck on a word, you might say, "Try something. Look at the picture. What would make sense?" As your child advances in reading you can also direct them to look at the beginning sound and the picture together and think about what would make sense.
- If your child is still stuck, supply the right word. This will allow him or her to continue to read and enjoy the story. You might do this by saying, "Could this word be 'kite'?"
- Remember TO PRAISE YOUR CHILD!! Praise what he or she reads correctly and PRAISE GOOD TRIES too! Your words will help your new reader feel successful. *For example, your child may look at a book that shows a black dog with text that reads, "I see a black dog." Your child might see this and read, "I see a black puppy." Instead of simply correcting your child's mistake, a good response would be, "Wow! You really used the picture to help you figure out that tricky word at the end of the sentence. You made sure that the words matched the picture when you said puppy! Great work! The word on the paper says, 'dog' but your guess of puppy was a great one! Let's try it again, this time with the word 'dog'"*
- MOST IMPORTANT: Have fun!!!!

After Reading the Story:

You can use many of the same comprehension questions that you used while reading emergent texts. Some children will also be ready for questions like these:

- What was the main idea of the story?
- Who was the main character? Did you like/dislike him/her?
- What was the setting?
- What was the problem of the story and how was it solved?
- Does this story remind you something you have done or read about?
- Can you retell the main events of the story in order?
- Why do you think (pick a particular character) acted that way?
- What was the author trying to tell the reader?