

Parents and Reading: How Can I Help My Child?

1. Develop an appreciation of books: 1) set up a library shelf, 2) make regular trips to the library (get your child his/her own library card.) 3) Ask the librarian to recommend books, 4) give books as gifts 5) let your child see you read. Children learn by imitating.
2. Read to your child daily. Make it a good experience.
3. Accept your child as he/she is. Seek out their strength and capabilities and be ready with praise when they do well. Avoid comparing with other siblings.
4. Relate reading to everyday situations (billboards, traffic signs, menus, TV guide, catalogs, labels, maps, etc).
5. Play games with your child that require concentration. Often such games can help increase intellectual capacity and vocabulary.
6. Take your child shopping. Early experiences in reading and mathematics can develop from such trips.
7. Make good conversation at the dinner table with thought provoking ideas, but don't make it a question-and-answer session. Be a good listener.
8. Control TV – pick out good TV programs and discuss them casually with your child.
9. Encourage play with manipulative toys. Let children experiment with typing, cooking, building and sewing. Children learn best by doing.
10. Take trips to points of interest. Museums, planetariums, displays, concerts and sporting events are enriching experiences. Other points of interest might include a farm, city hall, the zoo and amusement parks.