

Frequently Asked Questions

Is it too early to read to my 1-year-old baby? He doesn't look ready, and he does not know the words.

- Learning begins at birth. Babies need to hear a great deal of language in order to understand vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. If not adequately exposed to language in those early years, the brain will dispose some language-related connections that have not been activated, making it harder for a child to develop the same knowledge later in life. This critical window of sensitivity to language begins to close at 5 years of age.
- Learning to love books at a very early age creates a pattern of lifelong learning and future success.
- Children's understanding about literacy emerges in infancy and is continually shaped and clarified by countless experiences and active engagement with oral and written language—including books and stories.
- The single, most significant factor influencing a child's early educational success is an introduction to books and being read to at home prior to beginning school.

Should I read the same book again?

- Yes! Reading a story over and over again is one of the best ways to help young children learn the shapes, sounds, and the sense of language. Because we want what's best for our children, learning how to enjoy re-reading storybooks from the adult's view is essential if we want to encourage more "read-aloud" time. At the same time, those techniques that add variety for the adult stimulate all the ways a child thinks, promoting healthy brain development.

My child likes to tear the books.

- This behavior is completely natural. Your child is exploring and getting to know books. The important thing is to share an interactive book experience with your child.
- Engage your child in the book sharing process by allowing your child to choose the book or turn the pages, asking your child to help tell the story, or asking your child questions about what she/he thinks is happening on the page. They will begin to understand how books work!

When is the best time of the day for reading?

- Any time that works for your family is the best time!
- Remember that books can be taken and read anywhere – waiting in a doctor’s office, waiting in a grocery line, waiting in a car, or riding the bus.
- Many families create a bedtime book sharing routine, since it calms and relaxes children. Reading before bedtime encourages children to settle down for the night.
- Try to help your family create a daily schedule that incorporates a reading routine so it becomes part of your daily rhythm, just like brushing your teeth or eating breakfast.

My child likes TV more than book.

- You do not have to choose between TV and books. The length of time a parent spends reading with a child does not have to be long. 5-10 minutes a day is enough time to have a strong effect.
- Make book-sharing fun! Engage your child in the book-sharing process by allowing your child to choose the book or turn the pages, asking your child to help the story, or asking your child questions about what she/he thinks is happening on the page.
- The single most significant factor influencing a child’s early educational success is an introduction to books and being read to at home prior the beginning school.

I don’t have time to read to my children. Housework occupies me all the time.

- The length of time a parent spends reading with a child does not have to be too long. 5-10 minutes a day is enough time to have a strong effect.
- Remember that books can be taken and read anywhere – waiting in a doctor’s office, waiting in a grocery line, waiting in the car, riding the bus.
- Keep books all over the house – in the kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, and living room. This makes it easier to use free moments to share books!
- Try to help your family create a daily schedule that incorporates a reading routine so it becomes part of your daily rhythm, just like brushing your teeth or eating breakfast.