



TIPS TO “READ AND DISCUSS STORIES”

With Your Infant (0-12 months)

- **Read regularly and with expression.** Your baby won’t understand for a while, but that’s fine. They will hear your voice, see the pictures, and develop good feelings about books.
- **Keep it simple.** Board books with hard covers and thick pages are made especially for babies. Choose books that are short and have simple, bright pictures.
- **Snuggle up.** Hold your baby in your lap so they feel cozy and can see the pictures.
- **Involve them.** They might want to hold the book, turn the pages, or pat the pictures. They might even chew on the book. It’s all part of learning!
- **Describe the pictures.** It’s not important to read all—or any—of the words. Point to the pictures and describe the colors, shapes, and what the characters are doing.
- **Follow their lead.** When they start to lose interest, try another book or stop. Short periods of reading will work best.

With Your Toddler (12-36 months)

- **Have a routine.** Try to read together every day. Before bed is a great time to read, but choose a time of day that works best for your family.
- **Warm up.** Before you open the book, check out the cover. Read the title. Look at the pictures. Ask your child what they think the story is about.
- **Change your voice.** Try different voices for different characters.
- **Help them follow along.** Point to the words and pictures. Talk about the colors, shapes, and what the characters are doing.
- **Ask questions.** “What do you think will happen next?” or “Why is the girl happy?” Respond to your child’s comments and questions. Show your interest in their ideas.
- **Don’t be too serious.** Your toddler may want to turn the page before you have finished reading it. If they can’t sit still for the whole book, that’s ok.
- **Re-read.** Toddlers learn through repetition, so it is normal when they want to read a favorite book over and over. Notice how proud they feel when they master the story. But try for variety too, because new books offer new things to see and learn.