

# Reading Tips for Parents

By: Reading Rockets (2008) [www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org)

Give your child lots of opportunities to read aloud. Inspire your young reader to practice every day! The tips below offer some fun ways you can help your child become a happy and confident reader. Try a new tip each week. See what works best for your child.

## **Don't leave home without it**

Bring along a book or magazine any time your child has to wait, such as at a doctor's office. Always try to fit in reading!

## **Once is not enough**

Encourage your child to re-read favorite books and poems. Re-reading helps kids read more quickly and accurately.

## **Dig deeper into the story**

Ask your child questions about the story you've just read. Say something like, "Why do you think Clifford did that?"

## **Take control of the television**

It's difficult for reading to compete with TV and video games. Encourage reading as a free-time activity.

## **Be patient**

When your child is trying to sound out an unfamiliar word, give him or her time to do so. Remind to child to look closely at the first letter or letters of the word.

## **Pick books that are at the right level**

Help your child pick books that are not too difficult. The aim is to give your child lots of successful reading experiences.

## **Play word games**

Have your child sound out the word as you change it from mat to fat to sat; from sat to sag to sap; and from sap to sip.

## **I read to you, you read to me**

Take turns reading aloud at bedtime. Kids enjoy this special time with their parents.

## **Gently correct your young reader**

When your child makes a mistake, gently point out the letters he or she overlooked or read incorrectly. Many beginning readers will guess wildly at a word based on its first letter.

## **Talk, talk, talk!**

Talk with your child every day about school and things going on around the house. Sprinkle some interesting words into the conversation, and build on words you've talked about in the past.

## **Write, write, write!**

Ask your child to help you write out the grocery list, a thank you note to Grandma, or to keep a journal of special things that happen at home. When writing, encourage your child to use the letter and sound patterns he is learning at school.

# Here are some more things you can do at home to help your child:

When parents help their children learn to read, they open the door to a big, exciting world. As a parent, you can begin an endless learning chain like this: You read to your children, they practice reading, and finally, they read for their own information or pleasure. When children become readers, their world is forever wider and richer.

- Read aloud to your child: books, newspaper and magazine articles, the back of cereal box, labels on cans, or directions.
- Read poems aloud together to learn about rhythm and repeated sounds in languages.
- Point to the words on the page when you read. Move your finger from left to right.
- Listen to your child read homework or favorite stories to you **every** day.
- Go to the library together and check out books. Be sure to ask the librarian for good books or to help you find what you need.
- Have books, magazines and papers around the house, and let your child see that you like to read too.
- Encourage older children to read to younger children.
- Help experienced readers talk and write about what they read.
- Please consider donating a book to our library in honor of your child's birthday. A form will be sent home or you are welcome to download a form from the library web page on School Speak.

