

Newsbee's Tips for Reading Together

MODEL READING

Let your child see you read and write often. When you value reading and writing, your child will view them with pleasure.

ORAL READING

Begin reading aloud to your child as a baby. Continue reading orally to your child long after she is reading on her own. Your child will learn expression, increase her vocabulary, improve listening skills and enjoy time with you.

RE-READING BOOKS

Read favorite books over and over again. This offers benefits for your child; he is learning how to predict what will happen next and the order in which events happen in the story. Only YOU are tired of the same book. So, enjoy anyway!

READING MATERIALS

Provide lots of reading materials at home. Make sure that books, newspapers, magazines, etc. are readily available in various areas of the home and are included in play areas.

TIME

Make reading time a priority. With busy schedules, it is easy for reading to get pushed aside for other activities. Reading is a skill and improves with practice. Research shows us that children who spend as little as 30 minutes a day reading are more likely to become good readers. Fit in little bits of reading time whenever you can.

FAMILY READING

Plan family reading time when the entire family reads together, either aloud or silently.

BOOKS AS GIFTS

Consider giving books as gifts. This sends a positive message that books are fun and exciting.

PRACTICE

Practice, practice, practice! Reading is like a sport. The more you read, the better you get at it! As parents, we can increase this reading practice time greatly!

WRITING

Encourage your child to write letters, make her own cards or write in a journal. Recognize that even your child's early writing (scribble) has meaning that she can tell you about.

READING FOR INFORMATION

Help your child learn to extract information from text by encouraging him to find answers for you in newspaper text. Have him read the movie listings for show times or find the location of a community event you plan to attend.

CHILDREN AS AUTHORS

Help or encourage your child to write her own books and recognize her as an author. Treat these books as special by including these books on a shelf with other books that you go back to and read again.

READ FOR FUN

Make up the voice for a grumpy old troll. Try a foreign accent. Act out zany characters. Take turns reading. Young children can "read" the pictures. If you enjoy reading, chances are, so will your children.

LIBRARY

Make frequent trips to the library. This can be an enjoyable outing for your family and a time when adults can role model checking out books to read for pleasure. Remember to check out books about activities your child is involved in. Look for recommended book lists, such as *The Missourian's Book Buzz Picks*.

QUESTIONS

While reading with your child, ask him questions about the story and encourage him to imagine. This conversation with your child will build his comprehension and language skills.

SHARE BOOKS

Share some of your favorite books with your child (either childhood favorites or for older children, some great reading YOU are doing now.)

INDEPENDENT READERS

Provide reading materials that match your child's interests. Respect your child as an expert in the areas he has read up on. Encourage him to stop occasionally in his reading and ask himself what has happened so far and predict what will happen next.

VARIETY

Choose books with a variety of styles, such as fairy tales, mysteries, fiction, non-fiction, poetry and folk tales.

NO WRONG WAY

Remember, if you read with your child, you cannot do it wrong! If your child is reading and gets stuck on a word, however you help him is fine. Some ideas: re-read the sentence; sound it out; look for clues; tell him the word.

READING READINESS TIPS

Look at the book together and ask your child to tell you what he thinks the book will be about. Point to words as you read. Let your child finish a familiar sentence in a book as you point to the words.

EARLY READING SKILLS

Encourage your child to go back and reread a sentence when she reads a word incorrectly and it did not make sense. Praise your child for her great reading!

READING WITH READERS

Take turns reading aloud with your child – one chapter at a time, or one page at a time. Praise him for reading on his own. Continue to make reading time together special.

INFORMATIONAL TEXT

Read aloud to your child from newspapers, magazines, menus – any informational text. Children "develop an ear" for this important type of text by hearing it read aloud.

ASK QUESTIONS

What do you think will happen next? Why did she do that? How did he know that? What's happened so far? How would you make the story different?

EXPECT INTERRUPTIONS

Children just can't wait to share their thoughts, so let them. And the answer to the question "Can we read it again? Is "Sure we can!"

NURTURE READING AND WRITING

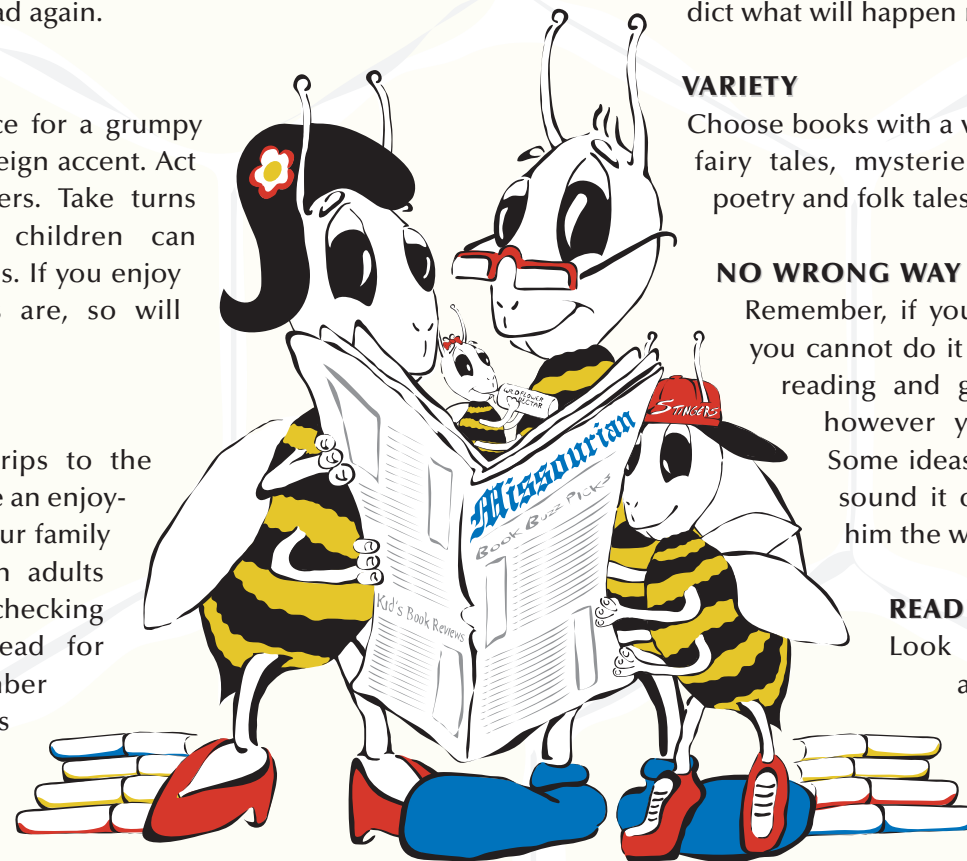
They go hand in hand. Just as you need books in your home, you need paper and pencils too. Children enjoy jotting down the grocery list. Journals and diaries are favorites of young writers.

READ NEWSPAPERS

The *Missourian* is an inexpensive reading resource for families, filled with educational content, pictures and information that connects your child to his community.

ENJOY THE MOMENT

Tempus fugit. Time flies. Soon, your children will be passing on the gift of literacy to their children. Be sure they have a rich legacy to hand on.



Missourian In Education

Many of these resources are from
Practical Parenting Partnerships www.pppctr.org