

Tips for Book Reading:

Compiled by Hilary Carroll M.Sc.A. R-SLP February 2020

Books are an awesome tool for developing language and literacy. This means going beyond “reading the text” but using the book as a way to talk together. It is important to make reading a fun activity and not always ask your child to read the text aloud. Reading aloud can be so challenging for some struggling readers that they begin to see reading as a chore. Here are a few tips for how to use books to help language to develop and to help make reading together more fun

- 1) **Find a topic that is interesting for both of you**
 - a. Take turns choosing what book to read, and talk about why you chose that book and why you like it
- 2) **Before starting the book look at the cover**
 - a. Take turns guessing what you think the book will be about
 - b. Ask your child why they guessed what they did
 - c. Talk about the pictures on the front page
 - d. Talk about the title and what it might mean
 - e. Guess what kinds of characters and settings (places) you might find in the book
- 3) **Talk about new words**
 - a. If there are any words that come up that you think your child might not understand, ask them and talk about what those words mean
 - b. Later in the day or the week ask them if they remember what the word means, talk about it again, look it up on the internet, point to examples in the home, etc.
- 4) **While reading the book ask questions**
 - a. **Try to avoid yes/no questions. Wherever possible, try some of these questions instead to encourage more conversation:**
 - i. What questions (e.g. what is he doing? What do you think will happen next?)
 - ii. Who, where, when, why questions (e.g. who do you think that character is? Where are they going to go next?)
 - iii. Open-ended questions beyond the story (e.g. what do you think the bear’s favourite thing to eat is?)
 - iv. Feeling questions (How do you think that made the bunny feel?)
 1. This can be a bit tough for some kiddos so we can ask a choice question e.g. is she feeling happy or sad?)
 - v. Connecting questions to the world beyond the story (e.g. you went to the doctor last week just like the bear in the story. What happened when you went to the doctor?)
- 5) **Comment on what you see**
 - a. Point out funny things and describe why you think they are funny (e.g. that bear is wearing pajamas, I have never seen a bear wear pajamas in real life!)
 - b. Make predictions (e.g. I bet that rabbit is going to follow them)
 - c. Talk about the colours and the details of the pictures

Tips for Book Reading:

Compiled by Hilary Carroll M.Sc.A. R-SLP February 2020

6) Expand on your child's answers

- a. If your child is answering in only a few word phrases, try adding a few extra words to their answer (e.g. if they say "he ran" you could say "He ran away. He ran fast.")

7) Re-telling

- a. Try reading the story first, and then asking your child to re-tell the story while looking through the pictures
- b. Read the same book many times and start having your child fill in the ends of sentences (e.g. "and the dish ran away with the __")
- c. Try acting out parts of the story after you have read it using puppets
- d. Try drawing some of the story parts after you have read it

8) Have fun!!

- a. Use silly voices, use different volumes and even use hand actions if you want!