

Books, Books, Books and more Books!

Books can create happy memorable moments with your child plus create a lifetime love of reading. Young children absolutely love books and become enthusiastic and excited! They love to hear stories over and over again!

You can create a home environment that is print rich with a variety of different types of books. Young children should be exposed to fiction and nonfiction books. They should have picture books with and without words. Books with poems, nursery rhymes, and fairy tales are always fun. Maps and a child's atlas and dictionary are recommended, too. There are also many children's magazines that your child can look forward to having delivered to your front door.

When reading to your child, find books that have the same theme or same author. You could find many children's books both fiction and nonfiction about bears, trains, or winter. You could go to the library to find books written by a favorite children's author. Show your child the title, author and illustrator. Many authors write many books about favorite characters. Read different versions to different classic stories and talk about what was the same and what was different in each. Did they begin and end the same?

What are your child's interests? Find books about what interests your child. Is it animals, cars, princesses, or dinosaurs? We all love the Disney movies. Watch the movie then read the book about it! Better yet, read the story then watch the movie. Talk to your child about the differences in the book and the movie.

Young children should be read to at least 20 – 30 minutes a day. Besides being read to, many children like to look at books on their own and retell the story in their own words while turning the pages. You can encourage reading and the enjoyment of books by having books in all the rooms of your house. They can be placed in the kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, living room and even the garage stored in a basket, box, or on a shelf. Let your child see you read every day whether it be a book, magazine, newspaper, or recipe.

Just a quick word about ebooks versus print books for young children: the consensus among educators is there has not been much research to really determine the benefits or disadvantages of using ebooks over print books. Some research shows that when a parent reads to a child holding a print book, there appears to be more interaction between parent and child asking questions, predicting what will happen next and talking about the pictures. When reading on an ebook, the child may be distracted by the device and questions are more related to the electronics versus what is on the page. For young children, I would recommend the majority of the books you read to your child be print books with occasionally reading or downloading ebooks. There really is nothing like cuddling up with your child to look at and read a book together!

Happy Reading!

