

Tips for Making Reading Enjoyable

- Pick a quiet time (before bed, nap, or after play).
Minimize distractions (television, phone, music, etc.).
- Create good associations with reading; make it cozy for the child (cuddling, sippy cups, blankets, and stuffed animals).
- Be enthusiastic; a child knows when you are just going through the motions.
- Be entertaining. Children love entertainment. Silly voices and expressive faces will bring them back again and again.
- Children love repetition. Don't be discouraged when they want a book read over and over again. This is a good thing. Have the child tell, "read" the story to you instead on occasion.
- Involve the child in reading. Have them turn the pages, describe what is on the page, or leave the text open-ended for them to fill-in the correct word.
- Go with the theme of a book (ex. Make cookies with your child before reading the book, *The Best Mouse Cookie* by Laura Numeroff, look at Hermit Crabs at the pet store before you read *A House for Hermit Crab* by Eric Carle, or look at different colored leaves before reading a book on Autumn).
- Involve your child in the book selection process so they are excited about the anticipation of reading this new book (choosing a book from Scholastic or trips to the library or Borders). Pick out a few, appropriate books for them and let them choose one.

- Create your own stories with your child. Let your imagination flow. You start the story and, with your child, take turns saying what happens next in the plot. Stickers or pictures can help you come up with your ideas and can help you illustrate it if you want to put it down on paper. Your child could create the illustrations.
- Travel with books (in the car, to appointments, or on vacations).
- Create games with sounds. For example, name an animal or person's name for each letter of the alphabet to help them recognize the sounds for each letter.
- Have letter magnets on the refrigerator so they can start sounding out or forming words. Have a word of the day on the refrigerator.
- For kindergartners, use easy reader books and point to words as you read them. Pick repetitive texts like the Dick and Jane series and see if they start to recognize the sight words. If that is difficult, sound out the word and see if they can blend it together.
- Let them see you read so they see the importance of reading in everyday life.