

Parent Tips

- Be a good reading role model. Make sure your child sees you reading on a daily basis.
- When you read with your child, sit next to your child or hold him/her on your lap so s/he can see the pages with you.
- Model important reading behaviours including looking at and talking about the pictures and using your finger to point to the words.
- Read enjoyable stories more than once, allowing your child to become familiar and comfortable with the text so that s/he can participate at will. Reading is interactive - let your child join in!
- Encourage your child to read the story to you if s/he would like to. It is fine for him/her to invent his/her own story, to read the words s/he remembers, or to read the illustrations (tell you what is happening in the pictures).
- Practice strategies that are NOT based on sounding out the words. For example: when reading stories in rhyme, stop before the final rhyming word and allow your child to finish, or read books with lots of repetition so that your child can join in. If your child initiates sounding out words, help him/her to relate the letters to their sounds, but don't allow her/him to be stuck and frustrated.
- Offer your child opportunities to read and write. Let him/her "fill in" the applications in your junk mail, read you his/her own stories, and offer to script his/her stories for him/her. Provide reading and writing materials and a special place for him/her to maintain an office of his/her own, even if it is just a portable tote of supplies.
- Don't overdo it. Reading should be fun. Your child will learn the most if s/he is motivated. Let him/her choose books on topics in which s/he is interested, and if the books are too difficult, help him/her to read, or find sections s/he can read his/herself. You'll be surprised at how much your Kindergarten child can learn when s/he is interested!

Most Important tip:

HAVE FUN!!!