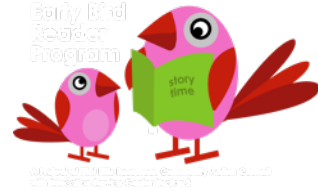


READING TO PRE-SCHOOLERS

Try these read-aloud tips:

- Read the same books again and again, if asked. A toddler will let you know when he or she has had enough of a book.
- Read slowly so the toddler can make sense of what's happening in a story.
- Offer crayons and paper to occupy the toddler who finds it easier to listen when he or she is busy.
- Vary your voice to fit the characters and plot.
- Use puppets and other props related to the story.
- Repeat interesting words and phrases.
- Stop often to comment, ask questions, and look closely at the illustrations.
- Encourage a toddler to join in: turn pages, name things in pictures, make sounds, repeat rhymes and phrases, and think about what might happen next.
- Talk about the pictures and point out details a toddler might miss.
- Talk about the book and how it relates to a toddler's real life experiences.



BEFORE reading a story:

- Introduce the book, discussing the cover, title, author and illustrator. Look at the pictures to discover what the story is about.

DURING the story reading:

- Allow time for your child to look at and talk about the pictures (pictures and illustrations are very important).
- Talk with your child about the characters and story events.
- Ask questions: What do you think is happening? How would you feel if that happened? What might happen next? Would you ever do that? Did you think that would happen?
- Allow your child to ask questions as you read and answer her/his questions.
- Accept and be positive about your child's responses to your questions.

AFTER the story reading:

- Go back to the beginning and have your child turn the pages and share comments or questions she/he might still have.
- Have your child retell the story to you.
- Compare the story situations to your child's experiences.
- Could you do that? Has that ever happened to you? Did we ever do that?