

Talk. Play. Read!

Every day, there are fun and easy ways to help your child build a lifelong love of reading.

Talk

- Talk to your child in the language you are most comfortable with. This helps your child get ready for future learning in any language.
- Make up stories together. Take turns imagining what comes next! This can help your child remember details, grow their imagination, and practice listening.
- Describe the sounds you hear - like beeping cars, vrooming buses, and barking dogs - to help your child learn new words to describe the world.

Try this! Take turns telling stories about the shapes of clouds to help your child use their imagination and express ideas in words. "I think that cloud looks like a cat! What do you see?"

Play

- Sing songs and play rhyming word games. This can help your child hear and remember the sounds that make up words, an important step toward reading.
- Visit the playground and count each time the swing goes back and forth! Your child can practice counting and using number words.
- Go to the park and look for interesting objects. Compare them by size or color. This helps children learn to pay attention to details and learn new words.

Try this! Sing together during bath time to help your child remember new words and practice rhyming. Sing a song you know, or make up a new song, in any language.

Read

- Read street signs, labels, and even cereal boxes! This shows your child that letters and words are everywhere, and helps prepare them for reading and school.
- Help your child pick out their own books at your local library. This can help them get interested in books and start to love reading. It's easy and free to get a library card!
- Re-read your child's favorite books in any language your family speaks. Repeating books can create a routine and help your child learn to love books, words, and stories.

Try this! Look for words that begin with the first letter of your child's name. Recognizing letters and words is an important step toward reading.

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There are lots of resources your family can use to start getting ready to read!

Use myON to read free books on your smart phone, tablet, or computer

The myON Digital Library contains over 6,000 books, including Spanish titles, and myOn News publishes daily age-appropriate articles. Families with children of all ages have free access through 9/30/18.

www.myon.com (For children birth to age four, username “nyca” and password “myon”)

Try these fun tips from the Children’s Museum of Manhattan

“Talk Together Times” help you have everyday conversations with your child that lead to reading later on. Small talk equals big learning!

cmom.org/all-the-way-to-k-and-beyond-posters/

Visit your local library branch

You can read with your child, check out books to take home, or attend a storytime or other early learning activity. There are also online resources that you can download at the library or at home.

In Manhattan, the Bronx, and Staten Island

Find your nearest library: www.nypl.org/locations/map or call (917) ASK-NYPL

Find resources for early readers: www.nypl.org/education/parents/early-literacy

In Brooklyn

Find your nearest library: www.bklynlibrary.org/locations or call (718) 230-2100

Find resources for early readers: www.bklynlibrary.org/learn/kids

In Queens

Find your nearest library: www.queenslibrary.org/ql_findabbranch or call (718) 990-0728

Find resources for early readers: www.queenslibrary.org/kids/parents-teachers/early-childhood

Download the Vroom App for more tips to try when you’re on the go

Use the free Vroom app with your child to spark brain building moments.

app.vroom.org/, or find on your smartphone in the app store

Try Reading Rockets’ easy-to-use reading tools

Find reading tips for parents in multiple languages, including for parents of children with disabilities.

www.readingrockets.org/article/reading-tips-parents-multiple-languages

www.schools.nyc.gov/earlyliteracy

Talk.Play.Read! tips for 3-K and Pre-K are adapted from the “All the Way to K” partnership with the Children’s Museum of Manhattan, the Administration for Children’s Services, and the Department of Education.