

Talk. Play. Read!

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

Talk

- Ask questions! Try asking your child about words that rhyme (“What words rhyme with car?”), or asking questions that start a conversation (“Why didn’t you like that book?”).
- Follow your child’s lead. If they seem interested in a book or topic, keep talking about it!
- If you watch a movie or TV show together, talk to your child about what you’re watching. Ask questions like, “Was that character happy or sad?” or “What do you think will happen next?”.

Try this! Help your child learn new words by talking about where things are, with words like “first” and “last,” or “left” and “right.” Talk about opposites like “up” and “down.”

Play

- Play word games that help your child learn sounds. Try saying, “I spy with my little eye something beginning with the sound ‘f-f-f-f.’ What do you think I’m looking at?”
- Play rhyming games! Give your child a rhyming word and have them guess the animal. “I rhyme with mat. I am a…” You can play this on the bus, on the subway, or in the car.
- Play board games like Boggle or Scrabble that help your child build reading skills while having fun. Or write letters on a piece of paper and see what words your child can make.

Try this! Clap out words in a sentence (use one-syllable words at first). Older children can clap out individual sounds in words (c-a-t), or clap out syllables in longer words (ad-ven-ture).

Read

- Visit your local library! You can read lots of children’s books while you’re there, or borrow them for your child to explore at home. Signing up for a library card is easy and free.
- Read books out loud together, in any language. Let your child choose books about things that interest them!
- When you’re out together, ask if your child can sound out letters or words on billboards, store fronts, street signs, or items at the grocery store.

Try this! If your child is already reading, take turns! Read half the page and ask your child to read the other half. Ask, “What was that story about?” or “Did you like that character? Why?”

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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 grades K-2, username “nycb” and password “myon”)

Visit your local library branch

You can read with your child, check out books to take home, or attend free programs. 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

In Brooklyn

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

Find resources and free programs: www.bklynlibrary.org/learn/kids

In Queens

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

Find resources and free programs: www.queenslibrary.org/kids

Try Reading Rockets' easy-to-use reading tools

Over the summer, you can get reading tips to go. To start receiving summer literacy texts, simply text READING to 41411 from your mobile phone or subscribe online.

www.startwithabook.org/sms

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

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

Watch fun, read-aloud videos and play literacy games with your child

Storyline Online has a variety of children's books read aloud by actors in a fun and compelling way.

www.storylineonline.net/

Reading Pioneers has a large collection of animated books read aloud on their YouTube channel.

www.youtube.com/readingpioneers

Unite for Literacy has a collection of books in multiple languages, with narration.

www.uniteforliteracy.com/

PBS Kids has early literacy games featuring TV characters your child might know.

pbskids.org/games/

www.schools.nyc.gov/earlyliteracy