



SKILLS, STRATEGIES & MOTIVATIONAL IDEAS FOR PARENTS TO TEACH READING 4K & Kindergarten

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- Create a home library and a comfortable place that you and your child can read on a regular basis.
- In your home library, find a special place to store paper texts that your child may take home throughout the year. Keep these stories for practicing over and over again.
- Set a time each night for reading.
- Model your interest in reading by showing your child some of your reading favorites (books, newspapers, magazines, etc.)
- Use play dough to make alphabet letters
- Put together ABC puzzles to familiarize your child with letters and letter sequencing
- Create your own ABC book by drawing a picture on each page of something that begins with that particular letter (paper stapled together will work to form a book)
- Use magnetic tiles, letter pasta, magnetic letters, letter cards, or alphabet stamps to create words
- Have your child first learn to read a book by telling you about the pictures & creating their own story
- Choose several times each month to visit your public library for new books.
- Write letters on green paper circles & laminate. Lay out onto the floor & have your child hop onto and identify the letter and the sound that it makes.
- Read, Read, and Re-read your child's favorite stories to them
- Let your child look for basic words that they might know in a story
- Ask your child to retell a story to you. This can also be done creatively using puppets, flannel boards, or props.
- Read books that repeat sayings over and over again
- Read to a stuffed animal or a special guest
- Point out environmental signs for your child to read such as McDonalds, Stop, Slow, etc.
- Highlight sight words (words that are used over & over again in many different texts) in a book using highlighter tape
- Have your child illustrate a picture that relates to the story that you read
- Point to the words in a story as you read. Ask your child to try pointing to words in a simple level text.
- Place sticky notes in the story to mark the child's favorite part of the story or use the sticky notes to ask yourself about what will happen next in the story
- Model what you, the parent, are visualizing in your head as you read the story

- Ask your child questions throughout the story. Have your child predict what will happen next. Have them identify the problem in the story and ask how they would solve it.
- Ask your child to identify characters in the story. Which character would they like to be and why?
- Cover up a word in the story with a sticky note & ask your child to predict which word it might be by reading ahead and inferencing.
- When choosing a book that your child would like to read independently, teach them the “Five Finger Test”. Put up a finger for each hard word that they are unable to read. If your child has more than five fingers up on the first page, the book is probably too hard for them.
- Create a project that relates to the story. Ideas may include drawing a picture, writing a book review, making a poster to advertise the book, create a bookmark about the story, create a favorite book album, create a reading log/journal, act out the story using props or costumes, design a book jacket, make a puppet for the story, create a paper plate mask of a character in the story, etc.
- Create your own “family book” or story using pictures, names, etc. that can be laminated & read over and over again by your child.
- Have a desk or a space where your child can use his/her imagination to create their own writings, letters, or stories. Blank pages stapled together, pictures, envelopes, stampers, magazine cut-outs, or fun shapes can inspire your child to create their own writing.
- Put ABC confetti in water and let your child catch the letters with a plastic spoon
- Let your child practice writing their name or letters in pudding, shaving cream, sand, etc.
- Cut out and name letters and letter sounds using ABC cookie cutters and play dough
- Dig for magnetic or foam letters in the sand
- Write alphabet letters with bathtub soap crayons
- Listen to book recorded tapes
- Play a game of Memory by finding picture cards of words that rhyme
- Write or copy words onto dry erase boards or magic slates
- Cut out words from newspapers or magazines