



How to Raise a Curious Reader

It's Never Too Early to Foster a Love of Reading

- Begin reading to your child at birth.
- Let your baby play with the book.
- If the baby sometimes doesn't seem interested, put the book away and try again another time. Raising a reader takes time and patience.
- Be animated. Use different voices and facial expressions as you read. Make it fun!
- Choose books that use word repetition, rhymes, and predictable text.
- Decide on a regular time to read each day. Even five or ten minutes gets children ready to read on their own.
- Before reading the book together, have your child take a "picture walk" through the book and make predictions about the story.
- Let your child turn the pages and point to words as you read.

Encourage a love of words by playing rhyming and word games, singing silly songs, or writing stories together.

Satisfy Your Child's Curiosity

- Choose books that support your child's interests, from dinosaurs to wizards.
- Reread your child's favorite books whenever asked. After several retellings, ask your child to tell you the story.
- Involve your child in the reading by asking questions! Ask "what" questions; avoid questions that require a simple "yes" or "no" answer. You might ask, "What do you think will happen next?"
- Remember to give your child time to think about the question and respond.
- Take your child to the library to check out books and attend story hours.
- If your child shows an interest in a picture either by talking about it or pointing to it, follow up immediately by asking questions and letting your child answer.

Most important, have fun reading to your child!

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