



FALL in love with READING

Reading plays a very significant role in developing your child's language and phonemic skills. Reading helps to build both expressive (what your child says) and receptive (what your child understands) language skills. You can begin reading to your child starting at birth through their primary school years. Here are some helpful, fun tips to begin introducing reading to your child:

Baby: Pick out books with bright colors, big pictures and manipulative objects (things you can touch and play with). This makes it easier for your baby to see and grab their attention. Hold your baby close to you, look at each page and talk about the pictures using a fun animated voice. Talk about the colors (e.g. "Look at the blue truck!"), animals (e.g. "I see a doggie", animal noise (e.g. "The doggie says woof-woof), spatial concepts (e.g. "The bird flies up, up up!"). This is a fun way to begin introducing your baby to language and reading.

Toddlers: Read manipulative books that feature topics such as animals, transportation or nursery rhymes. You may find it difficult for your toddler to sit for long periods of time, so reading books that require them to use their hands and sing will make reading time fun. Look for books that are short and simple. Read books that talk about real life experiences such as seasons, clothing, Holidays, etc. Ask simple WH (who, what, when, where) questions following story time. For example, "What does the cow say?"

Preschool: Around age 3, your son/daughter is probably getting ready to begin school where they will learn many new vocabulary words. To help with this development, read to your child every day and focus on introducing new words as you read. Talk about all the objects you see on the page. Ask questions about objects and their function. For example, "What is an airplane?" or "What do airplanes do?" Reading is a great way to build vocabulary skills.

School Age: Encourage your child to read a little every night before bed. Read song, rhyming, and tongue twister books. As your child begins to develop reading skills, it is important that he/she develops pre-reading skills. Here are some things you can do at home to assist with their growth and development of these skills:

- Read rhyming books to talk about words that sound the same. Point out words in books that rhyme or play a rhyming game and take turns thinking of words that rhyme.
- Talk about the sounds you hear in the words you are reading. Pick one sound to target during your reading time. For example, “Let’s find all the words that begin with the “B” sound, like ball or baby.”
- Point to each letter and say its sound as you read. For example, “B-A-T says BAT!” This helps children to understand each letter in the alphabet correlates with a sound and when you put sounds together, they make words.
- As you’re reading with your child, track the print with your finger, so he/she begins to see that you are reading words and each word has a meaning.

Leaf Activity

Put on your jackets and head outside! Instruct your child to pick up as many leaves as their little hand can hold. Head back inside and play lots of language based leaf games listed below:

- Count Game: Have fun counting all the leaves he/she gathered
- Color Game: Sort the leaves by color
- Size: Sort the leaves by size
- Nature Lesson: Talk to your child about what it means when the leaves fall off the tree. Talk about the tools used to gather up the leaves in the yard.
- Coloring Activity/Body Parts: Use markers and draw faces on all the leaves. Compare the face on the leaves to your child’s face. For example, “Here is the leaf’s nose...where is your nose?”
- Let the **FUN** begin!

This newsletter was brought to by our speech therapist, Brionna Patterson.

