

Frequently Asked Questions

Is it too early to read to my 1 year old baby? He doesn't look ready. He does not know the words.

- Learning begins at birth. Babies need to hear a great deal of language in order to understand vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation. If not adequately exposed to language in those early years, the brain will dispose some language-related connections that have not been activated, making it harder for a child to develop the same knowledge later in life. This critical window of sensitivity to language begins to close at 5 years of age.
- Learning to love books at a very early age creates a pattern of lifelong learning and future success.
- Children's understanding about literacy emerge in infancy and are continually in the process of being shaped and clarified by countless experiences and active engagement with oral and written language, books and stories.
- The single, most significant factor influencing a child's early educational success is an introduction to books and being read to at home prior to beginning school.

My education level is not high. I don't know how to read to my child.

- Read the pictures! Don't worry about the words. Tell a story based on what you see on the pages. Ask your child questions, so that he/she will start to build vocabulary and print awareness.
- Many simple behaviors, such as holding a book right side up, or flipping the pages of a book, have been shown to be very important early reading skills.
- Suggest that the parents start through oral stories that they know through their cultural history, religious background, etc.

I don't know how to keep my child's attention. My kid would run away just in a minute.

- Involve your child in the book sharing process by allowing your child to choose the book or turn the pages, asking your child to help tell the story, or asking your child questions about what she/he thinks is happening on the page.

He keeps asking me questions and interrupting.

- These behaviors are a natural part of early brain development. Book sharing should be an interactive fun experience for you and your child. Do not worry about following the book word for word, page by page. The important thing is to share an interactive book experience with your child.

He does not follow my page. He turns the page when it is not finished. He asks things not related to the story.

- These behaviors are completely natural. Your child is exploring, getting to know books. Do not worry about following the book word by word. Feel free to bring in elements of your own life into the story. The important thing is to share an interactive book experiencing with your child.

I cannot read in English.

- Read the pictures! Do not worry about the words. Tell a story based on what you see on the pages. Ask your child questions, so that he/she will start to build vocabulary and print awareness.
- Many simple behaviors such as holding a book right side up or flipping the pages of a book have shown to be very important early reading skills.
- Bring your own life and culture into the book sharing experience by telling stories of your family and community. It could be a story about growing up, a fable, a myth or a story about what happened that day.

Should I read the same book again?

- Yes! Re-reading a story – over and over again – is one of the best ways to help young children learn the shapes, sounds and the sense of language. Because we want what’s best for our children, learning how to enjoy re-reading storybooks from the adult’s view is essential if we want to encourage more “read-aloud” time. At the same time, those techniques that add variety for the adult stimulate all the ways a child thinks, promoting healthy brain development.

My child likes to tear the books.

- These behaviors are completely natural. Your child is exploring, getting to know books. The important thing is to share an interactive book experience with your child.
- Engage your child in the book sharing process by allowing your child to choose the book or turn the pages, asking your child to help tell the story, or asking your child questions about what she/he thinks is happening on the page. They will begin to understand how books work!

When is the best time in a day for reading?

- Anytime that works for your family is the best time!
- Remember that books can be taken and read anywhere – waiting in a doctor’s office, waiting in a grocery line, waiting in a car, riding the bus.
- Many families create a bedtime book-sharing routine as it calms and relaxes children, and encourages them to settle down for the night.
- Try to help your family to make a daily schedule that incorporates a reading routine so it becomes part of your daily rhythm, just like brushing your teeth or eating breakfast.

My child likes TV more than book.

- You do not have to choose between TV and books. The length of time a parent spends reading with a child does not have to be long. 5-10 minutes a day is enough time to have a strong effect.
- Make book-sharing fun! Engage your child in the book-sharing process by allowing your child to choose the book or turn the pages, asking your child to help tell the story, or asking your child questions about what she/he thinks is happening on the page.
- The single most significant factor influencing a child’s early educational success is an introduction to books and being read to at home prior the beginning school.

I don't have time to read to my children. Housework occupied me all the time.

- The length of time a parent spends reading with a child does not have to be too long. 5-10 minutes a day is enough time to have a strong effect.
- Remember that books can be taken and read anywhere – waiting in a doctor’s office, waiting in a grocery line, waiting in the car, riding the bus.
- Also, keep books all over the house – in the kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, living room. This makes it easier to use any free moments to share books!
- Try to help your family to make a daily schedule that incorporates a reading routine so it becomes part of your daily rhythm, just like brushing your teeth or eating breakfast.