A man with a beard and short brown hair, wearing a light-colored polo shirt and khaki pants, sits on a wooden chair in a garden. He is holding a young child with brown hair, wearing a blue and white striped shirt and blue pants, on his lap. The child is looking at a green book titled "Frank and the Giant" by "The World's Best". The man is pointing at the text in the book. The background is a wooden fence and various potted plants, including a large green plant with white flowers and a smaller one with pink flowers. The scene is outdoors and well-lit.

Helping Your Child Get Ready to Read

TREASURE **BAY**
WORKSHOPS

Overview

- Reading to your child
- Phonemic awareness—the building blocks
- Beginning phonics—letter names and sounds
- Reading with your child

Benefits of Reading to Your Child

1. Develops listening and language skills
2. Helps increase attention span
3. Stimulates imagination and helps develop curiosity and creativity
4. Expands vocabulary
5. Develops an understanding of the printed word
6. Sparks interest in books, stories, and reading

Benefits of Reading to Your Child

“Children who are read to from an early age are more successful at learning to read.”

Teale, W. (1988). Emergent Literacy as a Perspective for Examining How Young Children Become Readers and Writers,” *Emergent Literacy*, Norwood.

Benefits of Reading to Your Child

“Children whose parents read to them tend to become better readers and perform better in school.”

Snow, C.E., Burns, M.S., & Griffin, P. (Eds.). (1998). *Preventing reading difficulties in young children*. Washington D.C.: National Academy Press.

When to Read to Your Child

- Starting from infancy . . . and on, but it's never too late to start
- At least once a day
- 20 to 30 minutes a day
- At a regularly scheduled time

If you have to skip a day once in a while, don't worry.

How to Read to Your Child

1. Sit together in a comfortable, well-lit place.
2. Hold the book so your child can easily see the pictures and words.
3. Before reading, look at the picture and title on the cover and discuss what the book might be about.
4. Read with expression to make the story come alive.



After Reading

1. Have a short discussion about the story.
2. Ask open-ended questions about the story or subject of the book.
3. Help your child make connections to her world.
4. Be willing to read the same book multiple times.



Phonemic Awareness

- The ability to hear, identify, and manipulate the individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words
- The knowledge that spoken words can be broken into smaller segments of sounds (phonemes)

Why Phonemic Awareness?

- It provides a foundation for the learning of letter-sound relationships and phonics.
- It will make the process of learning to read faster and easier for your child.

Phonemic Skills

- Counting
 - Rhyming
 - Beginning and ending sounds
 - Blending
 - Segmenting

Activities to Practice Phonemic Skills

- You can do simple and fun activities with your child to help support each skill.
- It doesn't take any extra time during your day.
- You can do most of these activities anytime and anywhere.
- For example: while helping your child to get dressed, walking the dog, driving the car. . .

Counting

Skill: The ability to clap the number of words in a sentence, or syllables or sounds in a word

Activities:

- Sentences
- Syllables
- Sounds



Rhyming

Skill: The ability to create word families with rhyming words

Activities:

- Thumbs Up
- Rhyming Oops!
Wrong Rhyme
- Rhyming Stand Up!



Beginning and Ending Sounds

Skill: The ability to determine if two words begin or end with the same sound

Activities:

- I Spy!
- I Am Thinking
- Creating tongue twisters



Blending

Skill: The ability to blend adjacent sounds together

Activities:

- I Spy!
- I Am Thinking
- Creating sentences



Practice can be
anywhere and anytime!

Segmenting

Skill: The ability to verbally isolate the syllables or sounds in a word



Activities:

- Head, Waist, and Knees
- First I Heard

From Phonemic Awareness to Phonics

- Phonemic awareness:
An understanding of the spoken language
 - Phonics:
The relationship between letters and sounds
- Child can tell that bat and bird start with the same sound, and that bat and rat rhyme.
- Child knows that the sounds of the letters /b/, /a/, and /t/ blend together to say bat.

How Important Is Phonics?



“Phonics may be just one ingredient in a properly balanced reading program, but it is a ‘gateway’ skill: if you don’t crack the alphabetic code, you can’t read.”

—Stephen Zelman, Harvey Daniel, and Arthur Hyde, “Best Practice: Today’s Standards for Teaching and Learning in America’s Schools”

Beginning Phonics – Letter Names

Skill: Knowing the shapes, names, and sounds of letters, progressing from letter names and shapes to letter sounds

Activities:

- Alphabet song
- Memory game
- Tic-Tac-Toe



Beginning Phonics – Letter Sounds

Skill: Understanding the relationship between letters and sounds

Activities:

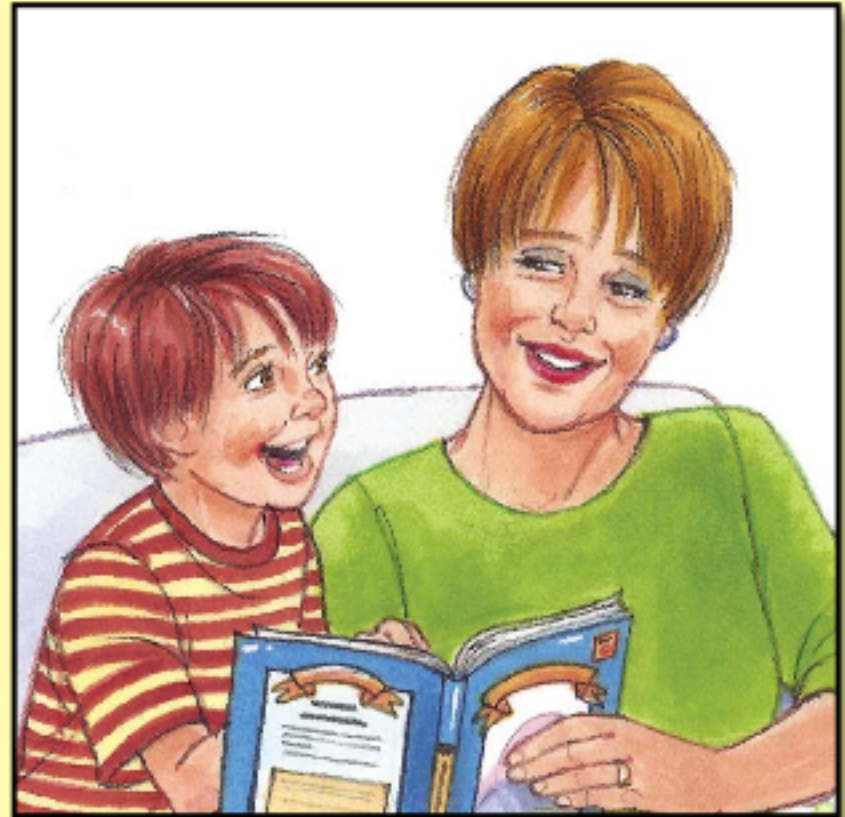
- Letter sounds
- Memory game
- Writing names
- Alphabet Soup



Transition to Reading with Your Child

Reading to your child is one of the most important things you can do to help your child become a good reader . . .

. . . and reading with your child is the next step.



What Is Reading Together?

Three elements:

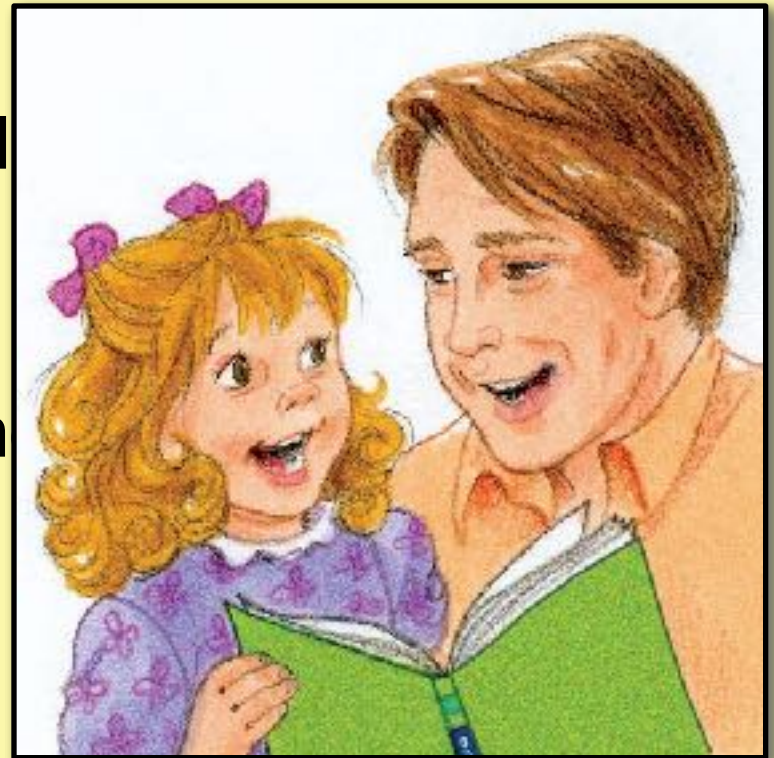
1. You read aloud to your child.
2. Your child reads aloud to you (though when you start, your child may not really be “reading”).
3. You talk about what you are reading.



When to Start

You can start when your child:

- Knows letter sounds
- Is starting to sound out words or guess words from picture clues
- Can recite from memory some words or phrases in favorite book



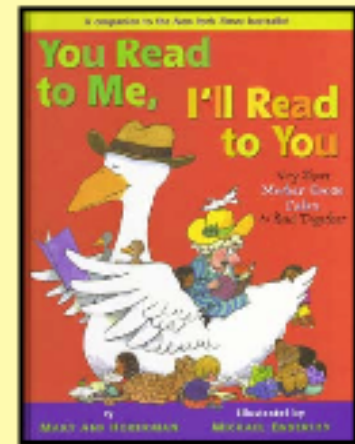
Why Read Together?

1. Opportunity for practice and supportive feedback
2. Enjoyable experience, fostering a love of reading
3. Accelerates development of vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency
4. Transition from reading to your child to independent reading

Bottom line: It will help your child to read sooner and better—and help develop a love of reading.

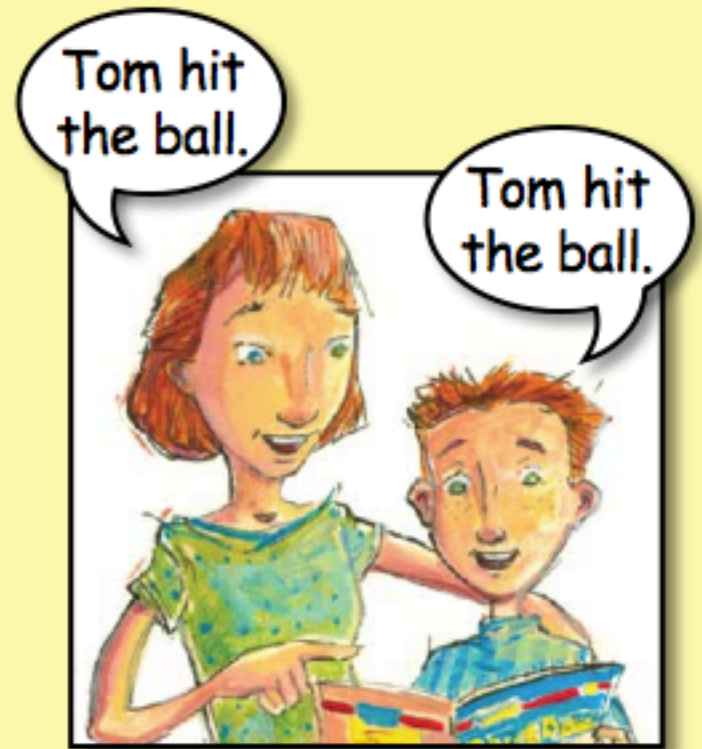
What to Begin Reading Together

1. Books you have read so often your child almost has them memorized
2. Books with repetitive text or short, simple sentences
3. "Read together" books, such as:
 - We Both Read series
 - You Read to Me and I'll Read to You books
4. And always—books that your child is interested in



Echo Reading

1. Take turns reading the same text.
2. Read a sentence, making your reading as fluent and expressive as possible.
3. Then ask your child to read the same sentence.
4. Run your finger under the text as each of you reads.
5. Continue until your child starts to read with expression and fluency.



Shared or Paired Reading

1. Take turns reading aloud.
2. Agree on signals for switching.
3. Start by reading some text, and then signal for your child to take over and read.
4. Watch for sentences, phrases, or words that are easy enough for your child to read (or that your child may remember from prior readings).
5. Nudge your child to read the next word, sentence, or page.
6. Allow your child to signal your turn to read again.

While You Are Reading

1. Read with expression—make the story come alive.
2. Point out rhyming words.
3. Stop and discuss new vocabulary words.
4. Talk about how you understand new words.
5. Ask open-ended questions about the story.



While Your Child Is Reading

1. Encourage your child to mimic the way you read to gain fluency.
2. Help your child use context and pictures to figure out unknown words.
3. If your child might be able to sound out a word or starts to sound one out, provide encouragement.
4. If your child struggles with a word for 5 seconds, provide the word.

Wrap-Up and Q & A

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Get Ready to Read

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