

Reading Readiness

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Tips to Raise A Reader

- Read together every day. When you're out and about, read the signs you see together or take a book along as well as a toy.
- Think "outside the book" and read out loud throughout the day.
- Send positive messages about the joy of reading. Your excitement about reading will be contagious. Make a trip to the library an adventure.
- Find reading and writing in everyday things. When grocery shopping, read the signs and labels out loud, read menus together, even go on a scavenger hunt in your house for sounds and letters.
- Link reading with real-life experiences. Invite children to help you read a recipe while you are cooking, read the ads together and look for letters and words they can identify.
- Reread favorites. Most children love to hear their favorite stories over and over again. Have them look for certain sounds while reading.
- Focus attention on what you are reading by pointing to words and pictures as you read.
- Talk, talk, talk. A child's vocabulary grows through rich conversations with others. They are really listening to you.

Why Read to Children?

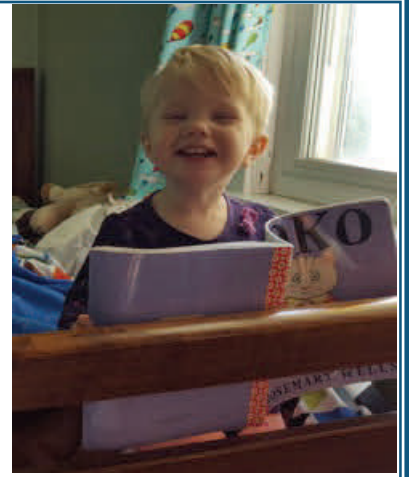
There are many simple things you can do every day to prepare children to learn to read, but reading out loud to children is the most important activity. Early reading skills in preschool help children achieve greater success in later school years. Find ways throughout the day to squeeze in some reading aloud even if it's just billboards on your way home from work or words from a text message you get.



Read Read Read

What preschoolers know before they enter kindergarten is strongly related to how easily they learn to read.

They should be able to recognize and name letters of the alphabet, be aware of sounds in words, rhyme, and have knowledge about how to look at a book. Make a game of sounding out letters while you wait in line at the store.



Photograph by Meredith Samuelson

Make It Fun!

Preschoolers are able to tell stories, have a conversation, and begin to scribble their name. However, current research suggests that some children may not be having the early learning experiences they need to become successful readers. There are activities that can be done at home that will increase early reading and writing skills.

Of all these activities, reading aloud is the most important. This can be as easy as five minutes at a time. Little snippets of reading turn into 30 minutes before you know it. Use activities and play that are of interest

to the child. Are they into matchbook cars? Then, how about reading the automobile sale ads together. Don't worry if your young child becomes distracted when you're reading, or if you don't get through a whole book. Follow the child's lead—encourage, but don't push.

Experiment with different types of reading materials to see what is of interest. The process of learning to read involves many different complex skills. Preschoolers learn best when they are doing something that is important and fun to them.

UW-Extension Family Living Programs

"Raising Kids, Eating Right, Spending Smart, Living Well"



For more information, please contact your county UW-Extension office:

<http://counties.uwex.edu/>

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