

# The ABCs Of Reading To And With Your Child

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**A**sk questions while reading together. "What do you think will happen next?"

**B**uy books as gifts for birthdays, Christmas, Hanukkah, or other holidays.

**C**hat about what is happening in the book and how it relates to everyday life.

**D**rop everything and read. Set aside 20 minutes a day during which the whole family reads.

**E**xamine book illustrations in detail. Select books that have large, bright pictures.

**F**ind books that interest your child. Make suggestions, but don't turn reading into work.

**G**ive hints when your child gets stuck on a word.

**H**ave fun. Smile and enjoy the story. Read with a slow, relaxed voice and be expressive.

**I**nvite your child to the bookstore. Take time to lounge in the chairs and browse the books.

**J**oin in your child's reading successes. Celebrate every small step with sincere praise.

**K**ids love to receive mail. Send your child a magazine subscription in an area that interests him or her.

**L**earn to read with, and not just to, your child daily. Read aloud, share ideas, and answer questions.

**M**odel reading. Share with your child, whether you're reading for information or for entertainment.

**N**ever force your child to read. If you're both too tired or discouraged to read, take a break.

**O**ffer your child a variety of reading materials, such as books, magazines, cereal boxes, comics, and newspapers.

**P**redict story elements, draw conclusions, and retell the story with your child.

**Q**uiz your child at the end of a story. Informally, of course!

**R**eread books to familiarize your child with words and to build self-confidence.

**S**ing songs, recite poetry, and do fingerplays to help develop language and listening skills.

**T**ry to help your child understand that it's okay to make mistakes.

**U**nderstand that reading is developmental and that it takes time and practice to become fluent.

**V**isit your local library on a regular basis. Sign your child up for his or her own library card.

**W**elcome wordless picture books into your collections. They generate conversation and allow the nonreader to create his or her own stories.

"**X**hibit" patience when your child is selecting books. Your support is empowering.

**Y**ou are the most important person in helping your child develop a lifelong love of reading.

**Z**ealous readers are the result of supportive and nurturing role models.