

Children's Therapy and Family Resource Centre

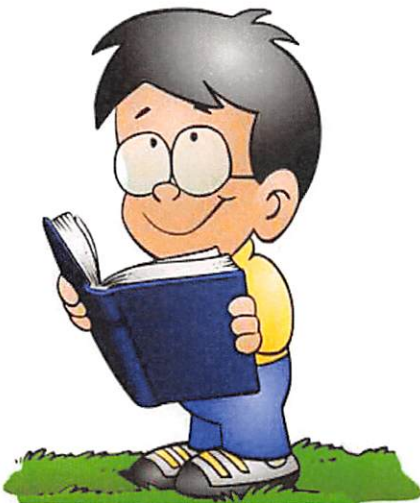
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Reading with Children

Books are an excellent teaching tool. Reading together encourages thinking and allows you to model language as well as to entertain. Here are a few ideas about how to use books with kids:



- **Keep books within their reach**
- **Who says you have to read the words?**
 - Sometimes the best part of the book is the pictures - talk about who you see (people words like mom, girl, brother), what you see (animals, objects), what is happening (action words), and how the characters are feeling (body language, facial expressions)
- **Give your child time to look at the pictures and talk about them**
 - Talk about what they are looking at (follow their interests)
 - Let them stay on a page as long as they want and turn the page when they're ready
- **Connect the pictures and story to real objects, places, and people in their lives**
 - "That looks like your bike," "Remember when you went to the farm?," "What animals did you see?"
- **Talk about what happened on the previous page and what might happen next**
 - This can help build memory and sequencing skills
- **Use your voice to help your child stay interested**
 - Emphasize important words and sounds
 - Try a deep voice for the Big Bad Wolf or a slow voice for a turtle
- **Read a favourite story over and over**
 - Have them fill in the words in stories they know well ("Once upon a time there was a beautiful princess named ...")
- **Create your own book**
 - Add pictures of family, favourite things, and places you have been. Write a word, phrase, or sentence at the bottom of each page



Paper books allow your child to learn about ... how to hold a book, how to turn pages, what a front cover is, sensory experiences (touch and feel books, pop-up books), and much much more!!

Electronic books are books that you read on a device, like your phone, computer, or iPad. While reading these books can be fun and engaging, keep in mind it is important that you *also* read paper books with your child.