

Reading Together

Here are some ways that parents can share books with their child:

1. **Wonder:** Look at the cover. Wonder together what the book will be about. Talk about the pictures and the story as you read. Here are some questions you might ask:

I wonder what this story will be about?

I wonder what will happen next?

How does that character feel?

Could this happen in real life?

What would you do if you were there or it happened to you?

2. **Read Together:** The adult and the child both read the words, in unison. When you come to a word that your child knows, wait and let the child read it. Sometimes your voice will be loud; sometime you will fade to a whisper as your child reads confidently. Compliment your child on their reading efforts. Tell them how proud you are of how hard they are working on developing new skills.

3. **Echo Reading:** Read one sentence, putting your finger under each word. Then the child reads that same sentence.

4. **Word Hunts:** Choose a word that is repeated many times in the book. Print that word on a card and hunt for it together.

5. **Sounding Out:** Have your child sound out the words he or she is ready for. Show your child how the sounds blend (sometimes we say be a stretchy snake or a slow turtle): cat = c-a-t,

6. **Chunk the Word** – Break the word into chunks you already know mat = m at, flat= fl at.

7. **Bump Reading** – Sitting side by side, start by reading the story to your child then bump him/her when you want them to read. Allow them to keep reading until they give you a gentle side bump. This will help build their confidence. Model the sounds that you would use to stretch out the word they found challenging. Keep reading and then bump them back into reading the story.

*Keep the story moving forward! Don't get stuck on one word.

*If either of you feels frustrated, switch reading styles. Maybe for tonight, you can read the story.

*Read to enjoy the story. Read to share a special time together. Read to show your child that books open up new worlds for us.

*It is important for you to read a variety of different types of stories to your child (fiction and non-fiction). These could be in English or whatever language is spoken at home.