

Here are six ways that parents can help their children with reading:

- Provide many opportunities for your child to read books or other materials. Read aloud to your child. Research shows that this is the most important activity that parents can do to increase their child's chance of reading success. Keep reading aloud even when your child can read independently.
- Make time for the library.
- Play games like Scrabble®, Spill and Spell™, Scattergories®, and Balderdash™ together.
- Follow your child's interests, and find fiction and nonfiction books that tie into these interests. You can use a third-party site like [The Lexile Framework for Reading](#) to help find the right book for your reader.
- Work crossword puzzles with your child.
- Give a magazine subscription as a gift.

SIMPLE WAYS TO BUILD A READING FOUNDATION FOR YOUR CHILD

- Label things in the home such as table, refrigerator, doors, etc. Collect the labels and have your child put them back on the correct objects.
- While in the car, walking, or riding the bus, have the child look for and read familiar signs.
- Talk to children about what they like to do—their favorite games, pastimes, and books.
- Listen to your child's stories, accounts of events, and ideas.
- Make plans for the day with your child. As children get older, plans can be written in a short schedule. The schedule can be used to search for familiar words and to learn new words.
- Encourage your child to ask questions. Show how some questions can be answered by looking for information in books.

WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD DEVELOP VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

- Talk about new words the child hears and connect them to words the child already knows.
- Look for letters of the alphabet in signs on a trip. Play the game, I see something..., where one person describes an object in view and the other(s) must guess what it is.
- Help children make connections among words or concepts such as “winter–cold, snow-holidays;” or “dinner–food, family-evening.”

WAYS TO TALK WITH YOUR CHILD ABOUT BOOKS

- Ask your child to predict what might happen next while reading a story. Be sure to ask your child to give reasons for the prediction.
- Ask your child why a character might have taken a specific action. Again, ask for the reasons behind the answer.
- Ask your child to compare a book to another familiar book. How are the characters alike or different? Do the stories take place in similar places? How are the illustrations similar or different?
- Ask what part of the story the child liked best and why.
- Ask whether the child liked the ending of the story and why or why not.