

READ, SING, TALK, PLAY...A FAMILY AFFAIR!

READING TIPS FOR TODDLERS AND PRESCHOOLERS

Toddlers and preschoolers enjoy story books that repeat words, phrases and rhymes. They enjoy books they can interact with and they may begin to 'pretend to read' their favorite books.

- Choose story books with repetitive patterns and encourage your child to join in.
- Read books with rhymes and get your child to help you fill in the rhyming word.
- Leave a variety of books within your child's reach so they can look at them when they choose. You may find that your child will tell the story in their own words as they look at the pictures in a book. This is an early stage of reading.
- Look at alphabet books with your preschooler and talk about the letters, mentioning words that start with that letter.
- Talk about the details in the pictures of a book, i.e., talk about the person's facial expression and how they may be feeling, talk about the number of animals in the picture, etc. This will teach them to gain meaning from illustrations.



Most of all, fit reading into your daily routine. Not only will this introduce reading as an important life skill, but also will allow you to spend some quality time together. Reading with drama and expression (i.e., different voices for different characters, louder tone if someone is yelling, softer tone if someone is whispering, sad voice if someone is sad) will help your children learn to read as they talk (with fluency).