

## Developing Young Readers: Tips for Parents

What can I do to help my child **learn to read** *and love reading*?

- **To learn reading**, you will want to help your child:
  - Build a strong expressive and receptive vocabulary
    - Express needs and wants using words and complete sentences
    - Tell stories
    - Understand and follow 2-3 step directions and longer conversations
  - Learn letters and sounds
    - Can your 4-year-old recite the alphabet?
    - Can he/she begin to recognize letters and write letter-like forms?
- **To love reading**, you will want to help your child establish the habits of avid readers. Avid readers:
  - Prioritize and set aside time for reading every day
  - Have a set place they like to read
  - Have many books at home
  - Plan ahead as to what they'll read next
  - Choose reading materials in their free time
  - Bring books/readings everywhere
  - Talk about their books
  - Go through phases reading particular types of books/materials based on their interests

What can I do to **help my child understand what he/she reads**?

- While reading, engage your child actively and help him/her build the following comprehension skills:
  - **Prediction**
    - What do you think will happen next?
  - **Monitoring for meaning**
    - What does this word mean?
    - What do we do when something in the story doesn't make sense?
      - Reread, look at the pictures, think, ask questions
  - **Envisioning**
    - Close your eyes and make a movie about this story in your head. What do you see?
  - **Connecting**
    - Does this story remind you of something you've experienced? How do you think the character feels?
  - **Accumulating**
    - Can you retell the story?
  - **Determining importance**
    - Help your child identify major elements of a story.
  - **Synthesizing and interpreting**
    - What is the lesson of this story? What did you learn from this book?

### **Reading Resources on the Internet**

For additional resources, tips and links, visit my blog: [www.LiteracyisPriceless.com](http://www.LiteracyisPriceless.com)

#### **Poetry**

**It's a Small World** (<http://www.itsasmallworld.co.nz/>)

- *Here you will find preschool rhymes from around the world for something a little different to the usual mother goose kids rhymes!*

#### **Online Storytelling, Books and Interactive Activities**

**Storyline Online** (<http://www.storylineonline.net/index2.html>)

- An online video program starring Screen Actors Guild members reading storybooks

**International Children's Digital Library** (<http://en.childrenslibrary.org/>)

- Provides free access to children's books from around the world

**PBS Kids Raising Readers** (<http://pbskids.org/read/>)

- Stories and literacy activities for kids that include characters from popular youth television shows (e.g., Sesame Street, WordWorld, SuperWHY!, etc/)
- Tips and reading resources for parents/teachers

**Speakaboos!** (<http://www.speakaboos.com/>)

- *Speakaboos brings classic children's entertainment into a digital world. Beloved characters and treasured stories are given new life through amazing celebrity performances, beautiful illustrations, and original music. At Speakaboos, children develop literacy skills while learning about technology in a safe and fun environment.*

#### **Sesame Street Videos and Podcasts**

- <http://www.sesamestreet.org/videos/>
- <http://www.sesamestreet.org/podcasts/>
- Make sure to take a look at the "What's the word on the street?" podcasts! They are a great way to introduce your child to new vocabulary.

#### **Reading lessons, activities and tips for developing readers at home**

**pre[K]now** (<http://www.preknow.org/families/athome/learnathome.cfm>)

- Includes developmentally appropriate tips and activities and information on school readiness

**Reading Rockets** (<http://www.readingrockets.org/families>)

- Easy-to-digest research, tips and activities for helping children learn to read
- This site is filled with practical information in the form of print, podcasts and videos.

**FreeReading.net** (<http://www.FreeReading.net>)

- A free open-source early literacy program that includes lessons that build key reading and writing skills necessary for the early primary grades