

Play with letters, words, and sounds! Having fun with language helps your child learn to crack the code of reading. The tips below offer some fun ways you can help your child become a happy and confident reader. Try a new tip each week. See what works best for your child.

■ **Talk to your child.**

Ask your child to talk about his day at school. Encourage him to explain something they did, or a game he played during recess.

■ **Say silly tongue twisters.**

Sing songs, read rhyming books, and say silly tongue twisters. These help kids become sensitive to the sounds in words.

■ **Read it and experience it.**

Connect what your child reads with what happens in life. If reading a book about animals, relate it to your last trip to the zoo.

■ **Use your child's name.**

Point out the link between letters and sounds. Say, "John, the word *jump* begins with the same sound as your name. *John, jump*. And they both begin with the same letter, J."

■ **Play with puppets.**

Play language games with puppets. Have the puppet say, "My name is *Mark*. I like words that rhyme with my name. Does *park* rhyme with *Mark*? Does *ball* rhyme with *Mark*?"

■ **Trace and say letters.**

Have your child use a finger to trace a letter while saying the letter's sound. Do this on paper, in sand, or on a plate of sugar.

■ **Write it down.**

Have paper and pencils available for your child to use for writing. Working together, write a sentence or two about something special. Encourage your child to use the letters and sounds he or she is learning about in school.

■ **Play sound games.**

Practice blending sounds into words. Ask "Can you guess what this word is? *m - o - p*." Hold each sound longer than normal.

■ **Read it again and again.**

Go ahead and read your child's favorite book for the 100th time! As you read, pause and ask your child about what is going on in the book.

■ **Talk about letters and sounds.**

Help your child learn the names of the letters and the sounds the letters make. Turn it into a game! "I'm thinking of a letter and it makes the sound mmmmmmm."

Visit www.ReadingRockets.org for more information on how you can launch a child into a bright future through reading.

Tips for Reading with Children



1. **Spend time with the children talking, telling stories and singing songs.** These are fun and important activities that help children get ready for reading.
2. **Read to and with the children every day.** This shows that daily reading and spending time together is important.
3. **Let the children help choose the books you read together.** This will help keep the children's interest.
4. **Find a comfortable place to read and sit together.** This helps them create a special feeling at reading time.
5. **Change your voice and the pace that you read to fit the story.** This makes the story more interesting for the children.
6. **After reading a book, talk about the story.** Discussing the pictures and the main ideas in a book helps develop understanding.
7. **Let the children see you reading books, newspapers, and magazines.** This sets an example for the children that you enjoy and value reading.
8. **Take the children to the library regularly.** Libraries are a wonderful place to find books and so much more.



This resource is available in 26 languages and can be found on our website, www.minnesotahumanities.org.
For more information, please call 1-866-268-7293 or email info@minnesotahumanities.org.