



Tips to Support Shared Reading

Shared Reading is when you and your child read a book together and have conversations about the story that encourage your child to respond.

Benefits of Shared Reading

Shared reading supports language and reading development for your child in five ways:

1. Your child acquires open lines of communication with you.
2. Your child develops a love for reading that leads to lifelong literacy.
3. Your child links what is happening in the pictures to what is happening in the story and, in turn, to his or her personal real-world experiences.
4. Your child adds this experience to the personal knowledge he or she already has about the book's topic.
Background knowledge about a wide array of topics helps readers understand more of any text they read.
5. Your child gains reading skills from watching you model effective reading strategies.

Easy Strategies To Try

- **Make Comments:** Start the shared reading experience with a comment. Say something about the cover of the book and what you think the story might be about. "I see a lot of dinosaurs on the cover. I think this book is going to be about dinosaurs." As you page through the book, share what you are thinking out loud so your child can learn from your model.
- **Use Questions:** Ask questions that give your child a chance to become a part of the reading experience. Avoid questions that can be answered with a simple "yes" or "no." For example, try, "What do you think is going to happen next?"
- **Make Connections:** Help your child make connections to what you are reading with his or her own personal experiences. For example, as you are reading the book about the beach you could say, "That seagull is a bird that is often seen at the beach. Do you remember when we visited the beach last week? What were some animals you remember seeing?"
- **Pause and Wait:** As you are reading, make sure you give your child enough time to make his or her own comments and answer your questions. Giving children extra time ensures that they have to think about what they are reading and find the words to answer the questions.

Come read with us!
Visit [JustTake20.org](https://www.justtake20.org) for more fun reading activities!

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