



Sharing Books with Your Child

Sharing books together is a great learning and bonding activity to do with your child. It's not just reading pages to your child. It's taking time to read, look at pictures, talk with and connect with your child. Not only is it fun for you and your child, sharing books has been found to have many, many benefits for children. Research has connected sharing books with a child with **higher vocabularies**, *better grammar skills*, **increased phonological awareness** or pre-reading skills and *academic performance*. It has also been found that the more fun you make it, the higher the benefits!

Suggestions for Sharing Books with Your Child:

- Make book sharing a special time that you and your child(ren) spend together.
- Schedule a few minutes every day (or as many possible) to share books with your child.
- Your child does not have to read in this activity, but can read bits of the book if they want to.
- Choose books that are 2-3 levels about their reading level, so that you play a big part in the story.
- Look at both narrative (story books) and information books as they are both important for school success and use different types of thinking. Make sure your child is interested in the topic.
- Spend time focusing on pictures. Talk about what you see, what you like, what you don't like, etc.
- Pause between pages. Talk about what happened. Have your child guess what may happen next.
- When talking about the book use terms such as "before," "after," "first," "last," "because," etc.
- Connect the book to experiences your child has had: compare the dog in the book to your pet dog; ask if they have played that game, etc.
- Ask open-ended questions throughout the book.
- Talk about words and items in the book and what they mean.
- Make sure your child has time to comment on what they see.
- Expand book time by doing related activities: sing a related song, pretend you are living in a castle, etc.
- Get a library card! Not only do they have many wonderful books, libraries have great activities for parents and children to participate in.
- Most importantly, HAVE FUN!