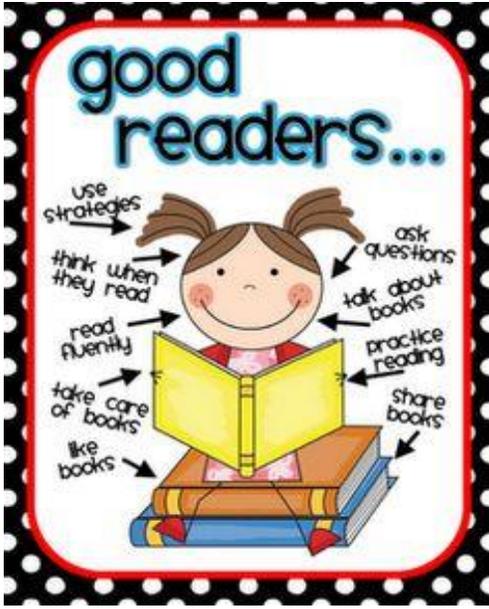


# Helpful Hints for Reading with Your Child



**Picture Walk** – Go through each page of the story talking about the pictures, anticipating what might happen, find words your child may have difficulty with and point them out.

**Read a Book to or Take Turns Reading** – Model for your child the correct intonation. Animate your voice to show feeling! Encourage your child to read like you speak (not word by word or robotic). Point out how pausing for a comma may change the meaning. Stop for a bit longer at a period. You may encourage them to read without using their finger unless they need it to break the word apart or decode the word.

**Allow Your Child to Read Independently** – Provide the opportunity for your child to read independently to you or another family member each night.

**Don't Leave Home Without It** – Bring along a book or magazine any time your child has to wait, such as a doctor's office. Always try to fit in reading!

**Once Is Not Enough** – Encourage your child to re-read favorite books and poems. Re-reading helps kids read more quickly and accurately!

**Dig Deeper Into the Story** – Ask your child questions about the story you've just read. Say something like, "Why do you think Clifford did that?"

**Take Control of the Television** – It's difficult for reading to compete with TV and video games. Encourage reading free-time activity.

**Be Patient** – When your child is trying to sound out an unfamiliar word, give him or her time to do so. Remind your child to look closely at the first letter or letters of the words.

**Pick Appropriate Leveled Books** – Help your child pick books that are not too difficult. The aim is to give your child lots of successful reading experiences.

**Play Word Games** – Have your child sound the word as you change it from mat to fat to sat; from sat to sag to sap; and from sap to sip.

**I Read to You and You Read to Me** – Take turns reading aloud at bedtime. Kids enjoy this special time with their parents!

**Gently Correct Your Young Reader** – When your child makes a mistake, gently point out the letters he or she overlooked or read incorrectly. Many beginning readers will guess wildly at a word based on its first letter.

**Talk, Talk, Talk!** – Talk with your child every day about school and things going on around the house. Sprinkle some interesting words into the conversation, and build on words you've talked about in the past.

**Write, Write, Write!** – Ask your child to help you write out the grocery list, a thank you note to Grandma, or to keep a journal of special things that happen at home. When writing, encourage your child to use the letter and sound patterns he or she is learning at school.