

Tips for Parents

Reading with Your Child

How to Prepare Your Child to Read a Book:

Look at the pictures to familiarize your child with the content and vocabulary in the story. Talk about what might happen in the story. This time spent *before reading* will help your child to be more successful.

What to Do When You Come to a Word You Don't Know:

- Look at the word again – beginning, middle, and ending letters.
- Read on, then come back to the word you don't know and try again.
- Think about what would make sense in the sentence.
- Think about what would sound right.
- Substitute a word that would make sense in the sentence and would match letters in the word.
- Skip the word and go on if you can't figure it out.
- If the word seems important in the story, look it up or ask someone to help you look it up.

Self-Correcting Strategy

The purpose of reading is to find meaning. Occasionally your child may substitute a word that doesn't make sense or that changes meaning. A possible strategy is to read it back to your child the same way and ask, "Does that make sense?" "Think of the story." "Does it sound right?" "Try that part again." Help your child focus on understanding and correct his/her errors. Praise your child's effort.