

LPA Family Reading Resource Guide

Reading Tips for Parents of Kindergartners

Talk to your child. Ask your child to talk about his day at school. ... 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. ... 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 her to use the letters and sounds she's 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 mmmmmm."

Give your child lots of opportunities to read aloud. Inspire your young reader to practice every day! 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.

- Don't leave home without it.

Bring along a book or magazine any time your child has to wait, such as at 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 as a 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 word.

- Pick books that are at the right level.

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 out 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, 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.

8 ways to support kindergarten reading

My pile, your pile

Skill: [Fluency](#)

We've all used flash cards for math, why not reading? All you need is markers and index cards. Make 5 to 10 cards including sight words at your child's grade level (sight words are words that your child needs to memorize for reading fluency). You can find [sight words for kindergarteners here](#), but follow your child's lead: if these words are too easy, [try these first grade sight words](#).

Go through the pile and if your child knows a word, it goes into her pile, if she doesn't know the word or has to struggle, it goes in your pile. Keep playing until all the words are in your child's pile; and keep adding new words to the stack, and discarding words your child knows.

Cool letters

Skill: [Decoding](#)

While you're making dinner, have your child play with magnetic letters on the fridge. First, challenge him to arrange them in alphabetical order. Next, ask him to close his eyes, pick out a letter and come up with a word that starts with that letter. If your child has mastered this step, encourage him to spell out simple words starting with the letter he picks. Create words and see if he can change one letter and make a new word. If he spells cookie, can he have one for dessert?

Echo game

Skill: [Fluency](#)

Find a book at your child's reading level and read a sentence aloud, using appropriate expression and pausing. Then, have your child mimic you, reading the same sentence and using the same expression and pauses. Repeat the game every few paragraphs as you read through the book.

Play detective

Skill: [Comprehension](#)

When you read a book with your child, stop and ask questions to help enhance his understanding of what he's reading, for example:

- What's happening in the picture?
- Why do you think the pig is sad?
- Why do you think the spider wanted to help the pig?
- Have you felt that way yourself?
- What do you think is going to happen next?
- How do you think the story will end?

Take turns and let your child "be the detective" and ask you questions about the book. Not only will this develop your child's comprehension, but critical thinking skills, too.

Tips for Supporting Reading Skills at Home

Map the book

Skill: [Comprehension](#)

Take your child's favorite book and help her map out the beginning, middle and end by drawing pictures of all the main events. To get started, help your child identify the main events using the "5 finger retell." Starting with your thumb, name the first event that happens in the story, for example, "First, Fern's father lets her keep the baby pig as a pet." Then with your pointer finger, "Next, the pig meets Charlotte." Do this with all five fingers. Once your child has identified the main events, have her draw a picture of each one and make arrows between the pictures to show how the plot turns. Reshuffle the pictures out of order and see how the story would work (or not work) if the events happened any other way.

Know your book

Skill: [Knowledge](#)

Understanding key story-telling components — characters, setting, plot and language — is an important part of becoming a strong reader. Ask your child about a favorite book and why he likes it. Is it because of the plot — the story is funny, surprising or exciting? Or is it because the characters are really interesting? Is it that the setting is especially cool? Or does your child love how the writer chooses words? If your child chooses a book that is really about playing with language — like Dr. Seuss — then think of another book that is especially strong in another realm. For instance, Arthur books hook readers with their quirky, engaging characters, and Where the Wild Things Are can't be beat when it comes to a magical setting.

Learn all about it!

Skill: [Knowledge](#)

What's your child passionate about at the moment? Whether it's kittens, swords, or surfing, head to the library and help him find every source he can on subject. Look at fiction and nonfiction books, magazines, comics and newspapers. Let him explore to his heart's content, and encourage him to talk about what he learns.

1. Have conversations before, during, and after reading together

Having conversations when reading with children helps them develop higher-level thinking and language skills, such as predicting, problem solving, or contrasting. While

reading books aloud, ask the child questions and talk about the content of the story together before, during, and after reading.

- Use open-ended questions to ask the child to think about the book's messages and what is happening. See the box below for examples of questions to ask children when reading different types of books.
- Ask the child to apply the book's messages to the world around him by connecting events to his own life.
- Ask more and more complex questions, so the child continues to build her vocabulary and language skills.

What skills will this practice help build?

Having conversations about what they are reading helps children build vocabulary and develop skills using language typically found in school settings. Building their skills to think and connect ideas from many contexts allows children to follow more complex language, which they might find in stories, instructions, and descriptions of historical events or nature.

2. Help children learn how to break sentences into words and words into syllables

Before children can identify letter sounds in words or reading, they can learn how spoken language can be broken down into smaller pieces.

- Show children that they can break down sentences into words.
 - o Practice identifying the words in a sentence by saying a sentence aloud and asking the child to count the number of words in that sentence.
 - o For instance, have the child count the number of words in the sentence "The boy ate two pieces of pizza" and correct any mistakes.
- Talk about how to combine two words to form another word and about how some words can be broken into smaller words.

What skills will this practice help build?

Learning how to identify words in sentences and syllables within words helps children understand how to break down the sounds within spoken language. Identifying parts of speech—such as words and syllables— will prepare children to learn about smaller sounds tied to specific letters. These are skills that a child can practice even before he or she has started reading or identifying letter sounds in words.

3. Help children sound out words smoothly

Sounding out a word involves saying the sound of each letter or letter combination one by one until the end of the word, and then saying them all together again quickly. Help children sound out words by:

- Showing how to say each letter sound in a word, starting at the left-hand letter and moving right, and then joining all the sounds together to form the word.
- Stretching and connecting sounds together as much as possible. The box below shows an example of how this might sound.
- Reminding children to check their pronunciation after they connect the sounds together. For example:
 - o Ask if the word makes sense or if it is a real word.
 - o Ask if they know the word that they said after saying the letters all together quickly.

o If the word is not familiar, ask them to read the word again to make sure they joined all the sounds together correctly.

What skills will this practice help build?

Recognizing and manipulating sounds that are part of words and linking those sounds to letters is necessary to prepare children to read words and understand what they are reading. Children must be able to identify the individual sounds that make up the words they hear in speech, name the letters of the alphabet as they appear in print, and identify each letter's corresponding sound(s). When children know a few consonant and vowel sounds and their corresponding letters, they can start to sound out and blend those letters into simple words.

4. Model reading fluently by practicing reading aloud with your child

Having children read aloud daily, both with and without feedback, helps them develop the skills of reading accuracy, fluency, and comprehension.

Accuracy is the ability to read text aloud accurately, but without regard to rate.

Fluency is the ability to read a passage of text aloud accurately, at an appropriate rate, and with expression.

When reading aloud with children:

- Model and provide feedback on proper tone, pausing, and which words to emphasize.
- Set a slow, steady pace, slowing down for words that are challenging. Gradually increase the pace, moving on to more difficult books. Remind the child that reading fluently does not necessarily mean reading quickly.
- Use familiar books. Make sure that the book is appropriate to the child's reading ability. If the book is too difficult, children can develop poor reading habits.

What skills will this practice help build?

Reading books daily, both with and without feedback, can begin as soon as children can identify a few words. It requires children to identify words quickly, combine ideas in the book with their background knowledge, ask themselves questions about their understanding, and apply strategies to help comprehension and fix misunderstandings. Then, children can connect with a variety of books of different levels and wide-ranging content.