

PARENTING TIPS FOR SELECTING AND USING LITERATURE WITH CHILDREN

Parents often ask educators for helpful hints to assist with book selections and the development of reading skills. May you find these suggestions useful as you discover the wonderful world of books with your family.

1. Select books that appeal to your child's interest level.
2. Use the five finger test to help your child select books appropriate for his/her reading level.
3. Read books aloud to your child on a regular basis. Don't overlook chapter books. Primary grade children enjoy them as much as intermediate grade children.
4. Incorporate progress charts to record the number of books your child reads. Establish a goal. Offer a reward as an incentive.
5. Provide opportunities for shared reading. In a shared reading, you take turns reading aloud with your child.
6. Invite your child to read a favorite book to a younger sibling or friend.
7. Use repeated readings with your son or daughter. Allow your child to practice the story as many times as needed for the development of fluency with oral reading.
8. Record your child reading a favorite selection. Mail the tape to a distant relative or friend. The recorded story could also become a wonderful addition to a childhood memory box.
9. Use echo reading. Read a short passage from a favorite selection and ask your child to reread it matching your fluency, accuracy, and expression.
10. Read paragraphs alternately with your child. Provide guide questions for the paragraphs read aloud. Allow your child to ask questions also.
11. On occasion help your child summarize a story using these five questions:
Who or what is the story about?
When or where does the story take place?
What happens next?
What happens next?
How does the story end?
12. Invite your child to draw a picture illustrating a favorite scene or character from a story. Encourage your child to write a descriptive paragraph about it. Ask your child to read it to you.
13. Encourage your child to create an advertisement for a favorite book.
14. Invite your child to recommend three favorite books for you to enjoy.