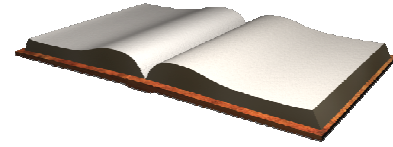


Read books with your child every day because...

- He/she will learn lots of new words
- He/she will develop speaking and listening skills
- He/she will learn new things about the world
- It will help prepare him/her for learning at school
- It will give you a chance to spend time together
- It will help your child develop story telling skills. NOTE: 60% of what children communicate is in the form of a story, usually about a life experience



There are lots of ways to use books to build language; Here are some suggestions:

- It is never too early to start reading with your child, start at birth and make it a habit
- Read the same books over and over; children need to hear new words many times before they will begin to use them
- Once your child knows a story very well, let them help you read it. Start a sentence and let your child finish it "*Once upon a time there were three _____*"
- Let your child choose the book; children listen better when you're reading a book they chose
- Try ignoring the words and talking about the pictures instead. This way your child hears the story at their level
- Avoid books with sound buttons. They are distracting and children tend to concentrate on pushing buttons instead of listening and learning.
- Name things, people and actions in pictures. Take lots of time to discuss pictures and what is happening
- Reading stories together should be: Fun, relaxing and STRESS FREE.
- If your child interrupts to ask a question, answer it. This means they are listening and interested; use these moments to teach him/her something new!!
- Eliminate all background noise when reading together. TVs, radios and open windows are distracting. Make sure you're reading somewhere calm and quiet so your child can concentrate on listening to your voice
- Ask lots of open-ended questions or questions with no wrong answer. For example ask "what's going to happen next?!" "How do you think he is feeling?"
- Find books with lots of repetition and rhyming. These books are easier for children to follow along with and remember.

For more ideas, or book lists, contact
your local Speech Language
Pathologist...