



The Importance of Reading to Your Child Parent Tip #5

Reading research indicates that the single most important activity for building knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children. (Anderson et al., 1985)

- Read to and with your child.
- Read storybooks full of action and adventure.
- Let your child choose the story, retell parts, repeat silly rhymes or big words.
- Write shopping lists.
- Let your child make their own books, take messages, and sign their art work.
- Use magnetic refrigerator letters, posters, newspapers, and magazines.
- Read words on t-shirts and cereal boxes.
- Play with educational toys.

- Tell stories. It's a fun way to teach values, pass on family history, and build your child's listening and thinking skills.
- Make sure your child has plenty to read. Find books about their interests.
- Help your child build a personal library. (Give books as gifts and rewards).
- Check on your child's progress. Listen to your child read. Read what they write. Talk to their teachers.



School age is the appropriate time to begin formal instruction in reading. However, children should be exposed to reading from the first days of life with parents at home, and in pre-school if they attend one.

At the beginning of Jim Trelease's book, *Read Aloud Handbook*, he has this delightful excerpt from a poem by Strickland Gillilan, "The Reading Mother": (17)



**You may have tangible wealth untold:
Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold.
Richer than I you can never be-
I had a mother who read to me.**

From Teddy to Ready (2002) by Susan Martelli