

PHONICS & READING FLUENCY

An Activities Guide for Families

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At Home Activities

Word Hunt High Five

Before you read a story, pick a Target Word (for example, "and").
Parent: "Every time you hear me say 'and' or see the word on the page, give me a high five!"
Read the book normally. It keeps the child focused on the text.

Echo Read

Read a book together. Adult reads one sentence at a time with *extreme* emotion. Child "echoes" the sentence back with the same emotion while swiping their finger under the words they're reading.

Finger Tracking

While you read, slide your finger under the words. Then, let your child have a turn.
Parent: "Grab your magic reading finger! I want you to follow the words while I read them. Make sure your finger matches my voice."

Word Chains

Write the word cat.
Parent: "Read this word."
Child: "Cat."
Parent changes the C to a V: "What is it now?"
Child: "Vat"
Continue to vet, wet, web, wed, red, rod, rot, rat, mat, map...
Pro tip: Search "CVC word chains" online for more like this.

The Silent Master

The adult is the "Silent Master" and cannot speak. Using paper or even a phone, write a simple command. The child reads the command and does what it says.

Example commands:

Hug mom	Hug dad
Pat dog	Nod yes
Sit on rug	Get a cup
Jump	Pet the cat
Spin	Jog
Tap leg	Be a bat
Run	Buzz
Hop	High five (harder)

Cereal Box Detective

Using a cereal box (or anything at home that has written text on it: soup can, hanging decorations), have your child find letters and words.
Parent: "Find the word 'pop'."
Child: Searches on the household item and points out the word.
Parent: "Find a word that starts with a capital 'T'."
Continue to search for words, letters, and sounds.

Did You Know?

-  Reading 20 minutes a day = 1,800,000 words per year
-  Reading 5 minutes a day = 282,000 words per year
-  Reading 1 minute a day = 8,000 words per year

Small moments add up to big results!

