

TIPS for READING to Young Children



BABY

Read just a few pages at a time. Babies have short attention spans so it's okay to put the book aside when your child loses interest.

Choose brightly colored board books that have pictures of familiar objects, like toys or animals.

Pick board books that offer different experiences, like pop-up characters, different textures to feel, and flaps to lift.

Cuddling while you read helps your baby feel safe, warm, and connected to you.

TODDLER

Read the same stories over and over again so your child can start making connections between words and pictures.

Encourage your child to turn the book's pages.

Ask your child to name what's in the picture or what will happen next.

Change your voice to match different characters or the action that's taking place in the story.

Let your child choose the book that she wants you to read.

PRESCHOOLER

Have your child follow along by moving your finger under the words as you read.

Encourage your child to sound out simple words and phrases with you.

Ask your kids which character they like best or what they think is going to happen next in the story.

Make up a different ending to the story.

Extend reading time by doing a related activity together, like drawing a picture that describes the story.

SAN JOAQUIN
READS

Early Literacy
Every Day

UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC
BeyondOurGates.org

FIRST5
San Joaquin 
SJKids.org

Content adapted from
www.first5california.com/parents.