



TALK



How does talking with children help them get ready to read?

When someone asks a child questions about the stories they read together, it is easier for the child to make connections between the books and his/her own life..

Talking about the print that is all around helps children learn that print has meaning. The print can be in books, on signs, or anywhere else in the environment. By helping a child notice the print and subsequently talking about the print, it helps a child get ready to read.

Children need to know three things about letters: the names, the shape, and the sounds they make. Naming letters on signs, pointing out letter shapes in sidewalk cracks or buildings, and voicing letter sounds while interacting are all ways to make these connections.

The more words children hear in conversations during their early childhood, the larger their vocabulary will be when they go to school. That big vocabulary helps children recognize words when they see them for the first time in print.

When parents slow down their speech, it stretches out the words and helps children learn the individual sounds that make up words. Playing rhyming and letter sound games can help children learn these structural sounds as well.

When children listen to stories orally, they learn the structure of a story. This helps them begin to tell their own stories. Listening to adults talk about their lives also helps children build background knowledge, which they can use later to help them comprehend new ideas.

