

How to Get Your Child Interested in Books and Reading

Many parents tell us that their children are not yet interested in books.

What should I do?

- Sit so that your child can see both your face and the book. You may need to get down on the ground with your child. Sit so that your child can see both your face and the book. You may need to get down on the floor with your child and sit or lie behind the book. You might need to put your child on the couch or in a highchair with you behind the book.
- Ignore the words printed in the book. Instead, point to a picture and name what you see. Try to use the same level of talking that your child is now using (e.g., one word – “duck”, two words – “big dog”, three words – “A red truck”).
- Use sounds (e.g., animal sounds, car sounds, different voices) and simple gestures (e.g., pointing) to add some fun to the story.
- Follow your child’s interest. Spend time on each page and let your child look at the pictures. Name the pictures your child looks at or points to.
- Involve your child in the reading process. Let him turn the pages.

Reference: “Parent and Child Program – Parent Talk: Sharing Books.” (March 17, 2005) – Toronto Preschool Speech and Language Services.