

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.
 - 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.