

## **Tips for Parents: Your Important Role**

### **What is your role as a parent in your children's learning?**

As a parent, you play a big part in helping your children learn: You are your children's "first" and most important teacher.

Children need time with you. When they spend time with you and get the attention they need from you, they feel more secure and confident. They will have higher self-esteem too. Creating a safe and loving family environment lays the foundation for life-long learning and emotional well-being.

Talking with your children and communicating feelings is one of the most important things you can do with them. When you communicate with your children, children learn:

- ✓ How to use language.
  - ✓ How to communicate.
  - ✓ How to have a conversation with others.
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- ✓ Tell your children stories or ask your children to tell you stories. Reading and writing builds on children's ability to tell stories orally.

## Tips for Parents: Reading

### What can I do to help my children learn to read?

- ✓ Let them see you reading.
- ✓ Share books together.
- ✓ Point out the print that is all around you. Look at street signs, grocery store labels, posters.
- ✓ Make scrapbooks from photos or old magazines.
- ✓ Cook together.



### Steps for reading with your children

- ✓ Choose a book from the library or from your home. It's even better if you let your children choose.
- ✓ Take turns reading aloud, or tell the story by looking at the pictures.
- ✓ Talk about what's happening in the story.
- ✓ Help your children with difficult words.
- ✓ Praise your children.

## Tips for Parents

### What do children learn when we read to them?

- ✓ New words.
- ✓ Enjoyment of a story.
- ✓ Focus, concentration.
- ✓ How to use their imaginations.
- ✓ How to predict.
- ✓ The connections between words and pictures.
- ✓ The relationship between words and sounds.
- ✓ How to read from left to right.
- ✓ How to follow a story from beginning to end.



- ✓ Listening skills.
- ✓ Communication skills.
- ✓ Knowledge or information in the story.
- ✓ Sharing and enjoyment of a special activity.