

# Story Time

Want to spend time with your youngster, build her reading skills, and help her learn to love books? You can do all three when you read aloud to her.

Here are some suggestions:

**Read regularly.** Try to read to your child every day. You might aim for 10–15 minutes of bedtime reading for a peaceful end to the day. Tuck read-alouds into the time when dinner is in the oven. Or curl up together with a book when you get home from work.

**Take turns choosing books.** Your youngster may want to hear old favorites again and again. Use your turn for new titles and variety (nonfiction, poetry).

**Let her participate.** Ask your child to turn the pages while you read. Also, she can finish sentences that rhyme or fill in words she knows. Go slowly so she has time to understand the story and look at the illustrations. She'll enjoy read-aloud time more if she plays an active role.

**Be playful.** You can use different voices for different characters (a high, squeaky voice for a chicken or a deep, booming voice for a horse). Substitute your youngster's name for the main character's name, and use family members' names for other characters. *Note:* You don't have to be an expert reader—your child will love it when you read aloud because it's *you*.♥



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