











Reading and telling stories are important skills for children as they go through school. Stories help improve children's listening, speaking and writing skills. Stories are also a good way to learn new things about the world. Books introduce children to many new concepts, events and experiences. These experiences help to build a child's vocabulary.



There are many fun ways you can use storybooks with your child. Here are a few suggestions:

-  Start reading with your child at an early age. Birth is not too soon!
-  Begin with a good book. Good books talk about things that are interesting and familiar to your child and have good pictures.
-  Read regularly with your child. Bedtime is always a good time for stories but there are many other times that are good for reading. For example, you could read with your child while waiting in line at a store. Keep a book or two in the car or in a back pack. You will be ready to read a page whenever you have a chance.
-  Read **s l o w l y** with lots of expression in your face and voice.
-  Sit close to your child so you can share the book and the experience together.
-  Read simple stories your child can memorize so he can fill in the words as you read together.
-  Read the same story many times. Your child learns best when he hears a story over and over again. Your child will enjoy knowing a book by heart!
-  Ask questions that encourage your child to think. Ask *why* and *how* questions like, "Why do you think he did that?" or "How did that happen?"
-  Ask questions that encourage your child to predict what will happen next in the story. Ask questions like, "What do you think will happen next?"
-  Have fun! Your child will learn that reading is fun and it provides a chance to learn something new. Make reading a habit.

For more information, contact your community speech-language pathologist.