



Let's Read, Let's Talk!

Reading Techniques

Make the most out of the time you spend reading to your child! Use the following techniques to maximize the impact of reading books together.

- Let your child select the book
- Use vocabulary words when talking about the parts of the book (cover, spine, title, author, pages, etc.)
- Talk about the cover: make a prediction about what will happen in the book
- Let your child turn the pages
- Follow under the text with your finger
- Interact with the text
 - Ask open-ended questions (who, what, when, where, why, how?)
 - Relate to personal experiences and ask "What would you do if it was you?"
 - Make predictions about what will happen next
 - Repeat and expand on their answers
 - Talk about the pictures

Prompts for Summarizing

Summarizing and putting an idea into your own words is a very important for children as they go through school. You can help your child summarize by taking them through the following prompts:

- List the characters in the story
- Give the setting / places where the story takes place
- Tell how it started in the beginning
- Describe the problem in the story (middle)
- Explain how it ended / solution to the problem

Introducing New Vocabulary

Sharing a new word with your child doesn't have to take a long time: just a few moments to talk about the word, then focus back on the book or conversation. When introducing new words to your child, keep the following steps in mind:

1. Read the word in the context of the book: *Then she came upon an **enormous** fish!*
2. If possible, use context clues to figure out the definition together. Then provide a simple, kid-friendly definition for the new word: **Enormous** means something that is really, really big.
3. Then, provide a simple kid-friendly example that makes sense within their daily life: *Remember that really big watermelon we got at the grocery store? That was an **enormous** watermelon!*
4. Encourage your child to develop their own example: *What **enormous** thing can you think of? Can you think of something really big that you saw today? That's right! The bulldozer near the park was **enormous**! Those tires were so big.*
5. Keep the new words active within your house. Over the next days and weeks, take advantage of opportunities to use each new vocabulary word in conversation.