

# INFANTS

Babies love to listen to the human voice. What better way than through reading! As you read to your baby, your child is forming an association between books and what is most loved—your voice and closeness.

- 📌 Start out by singing lullabies and folk songs to your baby.
- 📌 At around 6 months, look for books with brightly colored, simple pictures and lots of rhythm (Mother Goose is perfect).
- 📌 At around 9 months, include books that feature pictures and names of familiar objects.
- 📌 Talk about the pictures first, instead of reading a complex story.
- 📌 As you read, point out the pictures that describe the story so that reading becomes an interactive activity.
- 📌 While reading, vary the tone of your voice, bounce your baby on your knee, or make funny faces. Do whatever special effects you can to stimulate your baby's interest.
- 📌 Allow your child to touch and hold cloth and sturdy cardboard books.
- 📌 For car trips, record your child's favorite books onto an audio tape.
- 📌 Be responsive to cues from your child. He may not want to read a particular story or at a particular time. Be sure not to insist on reading if he wants to do something else. Just try again later!

## Create A Future President!

Help your child become  
a better reader  
and a future leader!

For over 35 years, Half Price Books has been working with and supporting literacy groups across the country. We encourage others to get involved through our A, E, I, O & YOU literacy program.

One way you can make a difference is by reading to your child. Studies show that children who are read to early in life, ultimately achieve higher grades in language arts and score higher on standardized tests. For more information about volunteer opportunities in your area, find our literacy partners at [www.halfpricebooks.com](http://www.halfpricebooks.com).

Check out our great selection of new and used children's books at any of our locations. And since we buy books from the public, you'll find that different stores have different stories.

### SOURCES

U.S. Department of Education  
ERIC - Educational Resources Information Center  
NPIN - National Parent Information Network  
Family Resource Coalition "Encouraging Family Literacy"  
"Reading Children's Books: There's More to it Than Meets the Eye" NPIN  
"Read Along" NPIN  
"Why Should You Read to Infants" NPIN Parent News for March 1997 by Dawn Ramsburg  
"How Can I Improve My Child's Reading?" by Beverly B. Swanson ACCESS ERIC  
"Important Things to Know" NPIN  
"Helping Young Children Learn to Read" by Ann-Marie Clark NPIN Parent News for November-December 1998  
"Learning to Read Well: Some Simple Facts" ERIC Clearinghouse on Rural Education and Small Schools 1991  
"Summer Home Learning Recipes for Parents and Children Grades 4-5" U.S. Department of Education, by Dorothy Rich, Ph.D.  
"Keys to Family Reading" Literacy Instruction for Texas



HOW YOU  
CAN MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE  
IN YOUR  
CHILD'S LIFE

READING TIPS:  
INFANCY THROUGH  
6TH GRADE

## TODDLER & PRESCHOOL

Research shows that children learn about reading before they enter school. In fact, they learn through observing and listening.

- 👉 Teach the alphabet, but more importantly teach the sound each letter makes.
- 👉 Build a vocabulary for your child. Stick labels on objects in your home such as the table or a toothbrush. Collect labels and have the child put them back on the correct items.
- 👉 When reading to your child, run your index finger under the line of print. This procedure is simple and helps children begin to notice words and their meanings.
- 👉 Have your child help turn the pages (to learn that the pages turn from right to left).
- 👉 If your child gets distracted and loses interest, take a break.
- 👉 Pick a story with repeated phrases or a poem you and your child will like.
- 👉 As your child grows more familiar with the story, pause and give him the chance to “fill in the blanks.”
- 👉 Encourage your child to pretend to read, especially books that contain repetition and rhyme.
- 👉 Try to read with your child at least once a day at a regularly scheduled time.
- 👉 Connect drawing and reading. Encourage your child to draw pictures of stories.
- 👉 Remember to laugh. Have fun with your child. Make up silly songs. Sing songs and practice rhyming together.

## EARLY READERS

Parents of elementary-age children should provide reading materials in the home that arouse curiosity or extend their child's natural interest in the world around them.

- 👉 Establish a reading time, even if it is only 15 minutes a day.
- 👉 Read the name of the book's author and illustrator and make sure your child understands what they do.
- 👉 Listen attentively as your child reads.
- 👉 If your early reader does not know a word, tell her.
- 👉 Take turns. You read a paragraph and have your child read the next one.
- 👉 Talk about the stories your child reads.
- 👉 Answer your child's questions, and if you think he doesn't understand something, stop and ask him.
- 👉 Write a few short sentences each day in a journal with your child.
- 👉 Encourage activities that require reading—for example, cooking (reading a recipe), constructing a kite (reading directions), or identifying an interesting bird's nest or a shell collected at the beach (using a reference book).
- 👉 Write notes to your school-age child and encourage written responses.
- 👉 Ask your child to bring a library book home to read to a younger sibling.
- 👉 Establish one evening a week for reading (instead of television viewing).
- 👉 Encourage your child in all reading efforts.

## 4TH-6TH GRADE

Forty percent of poor readers in the fourth grade would rather clean their rooms than read! Only with the help of someone who cares can these children experience the joy of reading.

- 👉 Turn off the television and encourage your child to pick up a book. Children ages 9-14 spend 20 percent of their time in front of the television, but only one percent reading.
- 👉 To put reading skills to practical use, gather bus route maps, newspaper information and schedules to visit a special place in your area—the zoo, a museum, a football stadium. Let your child plan a trip for friends or family. Figure out the travel time required, the cost, and the best time to make the trip.
- 👉 Post a world map and help your child locate world news spots. Keep reference books such as dictionaries and the world almanac close by. In this way, your child can find answers to questions when her curiosity is high.
- 👉 Have a good supply of books, magazines and newspapers at home. Children with access to a lot of reading material read better than children with limited reading material.
- 👉 Exchange notes instead of words at different times during the day—when getting up in the morning, at dinner, or at bedtime—or whenever the noise level becomes too high.
- 👉 Turn a large calendar—commercial or home-made—into a personalized family communication center. Have your child fill in the blanks with morning messages, weather reports, birthdays, special activities, or notes to the family.
- 👉 Continue reading to your child to encourage greater vocabulary comprehension.