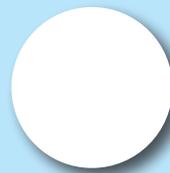
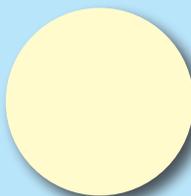
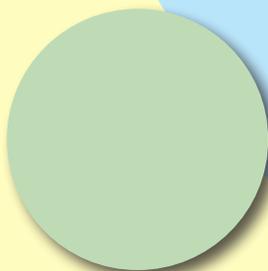
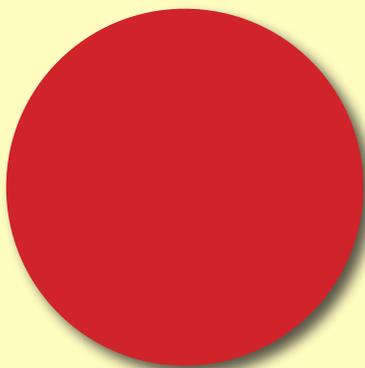


Structured Shared Reading



A planning guide to support shared reading experiences in the home



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Setting the Context

Reading is a learned skill, and all skills benefit from practice to improve them. All children can learn to read. Some children need more practice to become accurate and fluent. Making time to read with your child is one important thing you can do to help them practice reading.

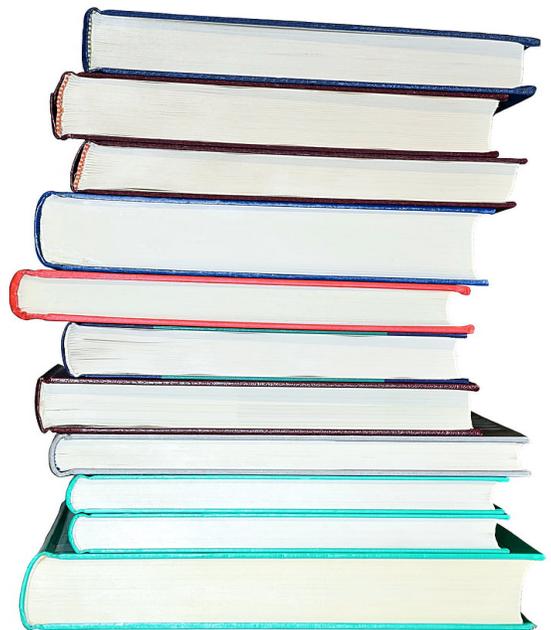
Reading with your child has many important benefits for you and your child. You can make this planned reading time more enjoyable by having a structured approach when reading with your child. In this guide, we outline 5 steps you can follow to make the most from the time you spend reading with your child.

Step 1 Provide Structure

- Schedule uninterrupted time for reading daily.
- Find a comfortable and functional space for shared reading time. This may be your kitchen table, your sofa, or even the floor. Be sure distractions are minimized to promote a focus on reading.
- Follow a consistent, reliable process for sharing reading time with your child. Having a routine for shared reading can reduce anxiety and reinforce positive expectations for both of you.
- This is time for you and your child to read and learn together. Your child craves your attention. Make this time about reading, and allow other times in the day to be about playing games, cooking, chores, and other activities.

Step 2 Text Selection

- Pick books and articles that match your child's interests. This will help motivate your child. They will use background knowledge on familiar, preferred topics to support word reading and connect new ideas to what they already know.
- As your child builds independent reading skills, have them read longer passages to build stamina. Increase the difficulty of the text by considering the types of words and sentences used. Text becomes more



complex when it includes more word patterns, longer words, new vocabulary, longer sentences, and advanced concepts. If the words are too hard, independent reading will be discouraging and frustrating. For older struggling readers, pick articles and books with appropriate age/grade content and modified word and sentence structure for independent reading practice.

- Read a variety of texts on similar topics. This helps build reading fluency (reading accurately at a speaking pace with good expression). This also builds vocabulary and extends background knowledge, which supports comprehension. If your child already has a favorite topic, series, or author, that's great for building reading skills!
- Select grade-level and above texts to read to your child. Your child learns reading skills from hearing new words, new knowledge, and the sound of your fluent reading.

Step 3 Shared Reading Time

- Read aloud and think out loud with your child. Read those high-interest, grade-level and above texts to your child. Not only will you be modeling what fluent reading sounds like, you will be expanding your child's vocabulary and knowledge.
- Think out loud: ask yourself a question out loud as you read (I wonder what will happen next...); visualize the story or information (I can just see that in my head...); decode a word (*un-sta-ble*... oh, that means *unsteady*).
- Take turns reading parts of a text: individual sentences, paragraphs, or pages. Intentionally give your child the parts they can read accurately.
- Ask your child to re-read the same passage you modeled. Re-reading helps to build word reading accuracy and fluency, which allows your child to focus on understanding what they read. Increase the length and difficulty as your child's independent reading skills improve.
- Listen to your child read independently. Help your child with misread words as needed, and talk about what was just read.



Step 4 Support Accurate Word Reading

- Focus on the word to correct reading mistakes. Knowing how to accurately read letter-sounds and word parts is the key to accurate word reading. Don't use pictures to figure out how to say a word. You can use pictures to confirm words already read correctly. Don't use 'guessing games' to figure out a word, and don't use context to read a word. Context can be used to help with the meaning of a word that has already been read correctly.
- Listen carefully to the words your child misreads. You may want to jot the word down along with how it was misread. After your child finishes a phrase or sentence, stop and think about how to help your child read missed words correctly.
- Did your child misread a letter-sound? Help them pull apart the word and correctly sound out each part. For example, if your child reads *ship* as *chip*, tell them the letters *sh* make the /sh/ sound, then model saying each sound /sh/ /i/ /p/ and reblending it into the whole word, *ship*.
- Did your child struggle with a longer word? Help them pull apart larger chunks of a word, correctly read each chunk, then blend it back together. For example, if your child reads *stronger* as *strongest*, break the word into two parts: *strong* and *er*. Tell them the letters *er* make the sound /er/, then reblend with *strong* for *stronger*. Be sure to talk about how *stronger* has a different meaning from *strongest*. Another example: your child reads *commitment* as *comment*. Pull the word apart into its syllables, *com-mit-ment*, read each syllable, then reblend them to read the whole word again.
- Always re-read the complete sentence that includes the target word after working on individual word reading corrections. Developing readers need lots of practice and repetition!

Focus on Word Errors – Letter-Sounds

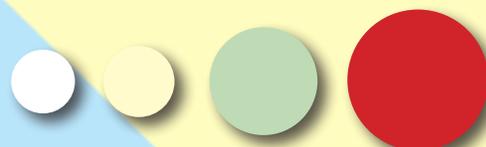
Listen for errors in reading specific letter-sounds. Vowel sounds can be tricky and are often misread. Point to the letter(s) and tell your child the correct sound. Have your child repeat it. Pull the word apart and say each sound. Reblend and say the whole word. Model the sounds as needed for your child. Set them up for success!

Focus on Word Errors – Longer Words

Listen for errors with reading longer words. Divide the word into parts. Listen for the syllable breaks you hear when saying the word and pull apart the written word into those chunks. Your child may need to practice a particular sound within the word part they are misreading. Correct the letter-sounds as needed, then reblend the chunks into the whole word. Model this process for your child, have them reread after you, then have them read it again alone. This sets them up for success and gives lots of practice.

Step 5 Emphasize Meaning

- Encourage thought and discussion before, during, and after reading. Prompt your child to think about what they already know about the topic and to predict how the new text connects with it. You may want to share the pronunciation and meaning of important words your child may not already know before you start reading.
- Ask questions about word meanings and details found in the text. Also ask questions that use information from the text to connect to other ideas. For example, “What would happen if there were no bees?” You can do this after reading a sentence, paragraph, or page depending on your child’s skills.
- Help your child visualize the information they are reading. You can model this by sharing out loud what you picture in your head, or you and your child can draw scenes that represent key information from the text.
- After reading, ask your child to retell what they read. You can help build this skill through modeling. Offer some key words for your child to use, and stopping at the sentence, paragraph, or page level to summarize and think about what was read.



Bringing it Home

The importance of reading cannot be overstated. Neither can the joy that you can have when you share reading time with your child. Structuring time to read and learn together sets you up for an enjoyable routine you can maintain throughout the year. Below are the 5 steps to follow to help ensure this is a successful and enjoyable time for you and your child.

1

PROVIDE STRUCTURE

Schedule uninterrupted time for reading daily. Provide time, a comfortable space, and a consistent procedure.

2

TEXT SELECTION

Pick books and articles that match your child's interests. Read several texts on the same topic. Increase text length and difficulty as your child builds reading skills.

3

SHARED READING

Read aloud and think out loud with your child. Take turns reading parts of a text. Re-read. Listen to your child read.

4

SUPPORT ACCURATE WORD READING

Focus on the words being read to correct reading mistakes. Help your child pay attention to letter sounds, word parts, and blending letter-sounds to read words correctly.

5

EMPHASIZE MEANING

Encourage thought and discussion before, during, and after reading. Ask your child questions about word meanings and details in the text. Help your child to visualize the story.

