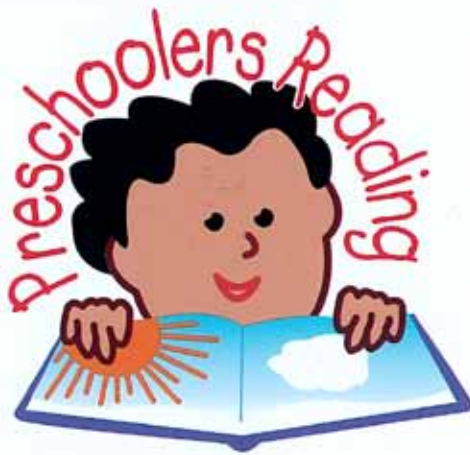


School Stuff



"Read it again!" is a phrase that preschoolers often use. Hearing a story over and over provides young children with many opportunities for learning. Additionally, hearing stories every day provides the strongest predictor of a child's success in school. To better prepare your child to be comfortable with books, try the following tips.

- Ask "open ended" and "what if" questions about situations, stories, and books. Give your child the opportunity to predict what might happen or how a story might be different if the characters had made different choices.

- Occasionally move your finger across the page under the words as you read so your child will begin to associate reading and written language.
- Take your child to the library often and check out many different kinds of books. Have fun with a variety of authors and illustrators.
- Allow your child to tell the story in a book by describing the action and details in the pictures. This "pretend reading" is one of the most important steps in learning to read. Your child is imitating reading aloud and demonstrating an understanding of what a story is.
- Allow your child to ask questions when you're reading to her. These questions will help her gain additional meaning, clarify information, and relate the story to her own experience.
- Be a reading role model for your child. Let him see you reading books, newspapers, or magazines so he will begin to see that reading is a life-long activity, something that grown-ups enjoy doing.

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