

Tips and Tricks to Reading with and to Your Child

- Allow your child to pick the book. It is okay to read the same book multiple times but continue to expose them to and encourage the options of other books.
- Model reading by tracking print with your finger, reading with expression, pausing at commas/periods, and bringing attention to any pictures or images.
- Draw attention to the pictures by associating words with the pictures in the book and real life objects.
- Reading for a short period is okay. Follow your child's lead and read for the duration of time their attention span allows. Put the book down and continue reading later.
- Make connections between the elements of the book (such as the characters, events, locations, etc.) and your child's life. This will not only make them more interested and engaged, but it will reinforce connections as a strategy to reading comprehension.
- Ask questions. Even if your child does not respond, you can answer your question as a model. For example, what do you think our story will be about? I think it might be about a zoo because I see elephants and zebras on the cover.
- Use props such as stuffed animals or puppets as you read. The animal could be used to read in a funny voice, your child could act out the story using the prop, or your child could read to their stuffed animals.
- Cozy up with a book, be patient, and make reading fun!