



Book Talk 1



Reading at home

Ideas and prompts to help you when talking to your child about the books they bring home

For fiction (stories/picture books):

Before Reading

- Look at the picture on the front cover. What can you see?
- Can you point to the title? or What is this? (pointing to the title)
- What do you think this story will be about? What might happen in the story?
- Who is in the story? What are their names?

During Reading

- What is happening in the pictures?
- What is ____ (name a character) doing here?
- What might happen next?
- Is ____ (name of character) friendly/mean/nice/happy/sad?
- What does ____ mean? (choose a word from the story and talk about what it means).

After Reading

- Did you like this book? What did you like/dislike?
- Which character did you like best?
- Look at the pictures—what was happening here?



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Sharing books with your child is a wonderful opportunity to spend some quality time with your them in a calm, quiet place. If your child isn't quite ready to learn to read themselves, it is important that an adult (or older sibling) reads and shares books everyday. Make your house a "Reading home" and your child will develop a love of books and reading even before they can read by themselves.

Here are some simple things you can do together to prepare your child for learning to read:

- * READ **to** your child everyday. A bedtime story is a great place to start.
- * Show your child how to hold books correctly, turning pages in the right direction.
- * Point out words and say them aloud. Ask our child to repeat the word back to you.
- * Make reading FUN! Show them that you enjoy reading too.
- * Explain that you are reading the words from left to right across the page.
- * Look at the title of the book, explain that this helps us to understand what the story might be about.
- * Point out signs and words in your environment—names on food packets, street names, posters and EXIT signs. Explain that these words are giving us information.
- * Once you have finished a story/book—ask your child to tell you what it was about in their own words. This helps them to develop the skills of listening carefully when you are reading to them.
- * Look at the letters in their name, find these letters in words in the book you are reading.

