



Get started with reading together



This is when the adult **reads together with the child** rather than **for** the child. You can use different strategies to involve your child more actively in reading.

Set up a communication triangle. Position yourselves so that you, your child and the book form a triangle. It must be easy for your child to look at you and the book.

Capture your child's attention. Use body language, facial expressions and sounds to capture your child's attention.

Give your child time to respond. You may often have to wait a while before young children take their turn at reading and respond to something you have said or done.

Interpret and confirm your child's response. Children can respond in many ways. They can point, make gestures, look up or try to say something. Interpret everything your child does as communication and confirm it by imitating or expanding on what your child is saying.

Imitate your child when he/she says or does something. This shows your child that you are listening. It also encourages your child to continue communicating with noises, words and body language.

Confirm what your child says or tries to say by expanding on it. For example, if your child says "vroom, vroom", you can say "Yes, he's driving his car." Doing this shows that you have understood. At the same time it helps your child develop his/her language.

Involve your child in choosing books to increase his/her motivation. Choose a book where you can both use body language, noises, signs and speech so your child can participate as much as possible.

Material prepared by the Health and Rehabilitation Division,
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