



Find a special time to read to your child each day (during breakfast, after dinner, at bedtime). Keep books on low, open shelves, or in a box or basket, so that your child can reach them without help.

Choose books with repeated rhymes, words, or phrases. After you have read a book many times, stop before the end of a familiar sentence and encourage your child to fill in the word.

Ask your child questions about the pictures in a book. *What is this? Who is that? Where is the boy going?*

Give your child large pads of paper and large crayons and markers. Save scrap paper and paper bags. Keep them in a place where your child can easily reach them when he wants to draw a picture.



Encourage word play. Make up rhyming words that go with things you see. As you drive, say *car, far, star, jar. Tree, bee, see, knee*. Ask your child to repeat these rhyming words.

Create simple stories where your child is the main character. The story can be about where you are traveling and about your plans for the day.

Retell a story you and your child have read often as you ride in the car, bus, or train. Ask your child to fill in the blanks and tell what happened next.

Show your child the menu when you are in a restaurant. Show him how the words go with the pictures on a children's menu. Show how your menu is divided into different groups (*appetizers, main course, meats, vegetables, desserts*).



OUTSIDE

Have your child lay down on a large piece of paper or the sidewalk. Trace his body shape with a marker or chalk. Say and write the names of his body parts.

Find words on signs that have the same letters as your child's name and comment. *Look how Main Street has an m just like Mary.*

Help your child learn how objects are the same and different. Talk about how two flowers are the same or different colors and sizes. Find two rocks that are the same size and shape and two rocks that are a different size and shape.

Make a shopping list while sitting on a park bench. Ask your child to help you make the list.



SUPERMARKET

Talk about what you did *first, next, and last* in the market. Talk about what you and your child will do when you get home. Use a logical sequence with past, present, and future tense verbs.

Ask your child questions to encourage her to talk about your time in the market. Ask her what you did *first, next, and last*.

Ask your child to make a mark on the grocery list as you put food in the cart. Show him the word on the page. He won't be able to read it yet, but he'll be learning more about print.