

How to Read at Home

The first rule of reading with your child at home is : Keep your expectations appropriate.

Kindergarten reading takes an amazing amount of guidance and support! If your child can sit with you for a few minutes while attempting some of these steps with your help, consider it a success!

Follow these steps to support your child's reading at home:

1. Place the book in front of your child. Ask your child to point to the cover, the back and the title.
2. Ask your child to open the book and look at the pages one at a time. This is called a "picture walk."
3. After viewing the pictures, ask your child, "What do you think this book might be about?" You can give hints if your child gets stuck.
4. Next, read the book to your child. Help him or her point to each word as you read at a steady pace. At each page, give your child thirty seconds to view the picture before you start reading.
5. After reading, ask your child what happened at the beginning, middle and end. Give hints if needed!
6. Next, you can echo read with your child. This means you will read a sentence and your child will repeat it. Your child is echoing your reading and matching your tone and pace.
7. After echo reading, your child may attempt to read the book to you. Help your child avoid frustration and the "I can't" mentality by supporting him or her. It's okay to give them help and answers after they make an attempt or two!
8. Read the same book two nights in a row. This will give extra practice and a feeling of success to your child.

Kindergarten is exhausting for your child, especially at the beginning. Basic needs have to be met before your child can successfully focus and learn. If your child seems tired, already frustrated or distracted, wait to read later (after a snack, playing, dinner, etc.). If your child does not seem to bounce back, simply read TO them that night.

My priority is that your child is able to rest, relax and recharge after a long day in Kindergarten. ☺