



# Reading Tips

## for Children Ages 3 to 5

The preschool stage is a great time to use books to introduce a child to the wider world. Along with books that reflect specific assets, choose the best of picture books that include simple folk tales, everyday challenges, and absurd situations. Children in this age group typically enjoy silly characters; scary-but-safe story lines with predictable, happy endings; and animal tales. Be sure to share alphabet, counting, and other concept books. Here are research-based tips for helping preschoolers get the most out of reading:



**Read to your child for 15 to 30 minutes daily.** Borrow or buy books to ensure you expose your child to a variety of recommended, age-appropriate books. Be aware of your child's preferences.



**Take your child to the public library.** Spend time browsing and also attend story times and other structured activities your library may offer.



**Give books as gifts on special occasions.** Inscribe each book with a message that records a special event in your child's life, such as riding a bicycle with training wheels for the first time or losing her or his first tooth. In this way, you'll celebrate both book ownership and your child's own unique history.



**Use books to introduce your child to people** of different ages, races, genders, nationalities, and abilities.



**Talk about the book before and after reading.** Predict together what's to come. Explore the meaning of words and characters' actions. Initiate fun activities that bridge a story to the real world.



**Link a story to your child's own experiences.** Share some stories that deal with issues your child is facing in her or his own life, such as a new sibling, starting school, or fear of the dark.



**Read with expression.** Use different voices and facial expressions. Focus on fun!