

Expanding Reading Fun for you and your child

"The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."
- Dr. Seuss, "I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!"

Here are some ideas for expanding your child's enjoyment of books and reading. By interacting with books in different ways-- retelling the story, imagining different outcomes, using art and song-- your child uses multiple intelligences to expand their learning experience. Some suggested activities are best for younger, some for older children-- and some can be used many times, expanding the ideas as your child grows. Have fun, try our suggestions or your own ideas and enjoy the time with your child!

First Grade

As a first grader, your child will learn and experience many new things. Their reading skills and comprehension are growing and the 50 new books they will read this year will help support those skills. Try some of these activities to build on those new skills, help develop their reading comprehension and have fun together!

Let's get Dramatic: Ask your child to choose a favorite book. Act out a scene in the book together. Ask your child how the characters should sound-- loud or quiet, happy or sad. Can your child explain why the characters sound that way? You and your child can both take parts and make a mini-play.

Mapmaking: Ask your child to choose a book. Talk about where the story in the book takes place. Can they draw a map of the book's setting? Where do the characters live? Ask them to tell you about the map and applaud their work.

New Words: Ask your child to choose a book they've recently read. Can they find five new words in that book? Talk about the new words and their meaning, use, etc. Try them in different sentences.

Point of View: Choose a book your child has read and enjoyed. Ask your child about the story-- who the main characters are. Ask them to think how the story would be different if it was told from another character's point of view. Listen to them try to "re-tell" the story in this new way.

Narrative Reading: Read a new book to your child. Show kids how you read a new text by reading it aloud and interrupting yourself to explain how you grapple with it as you go. Model your own thinking process; to help children understand what it "looks like" to think.

Silly Sequencing: This game addresses the "sequence of events" in a story. Read your child's favorite story and jumble up the sequence of events. Instead of reading 'Once Upon a Time there lived a little rabbit', start off with 'They all lived happily ever after'. Watch your child giggle and correct your mistakes. Finally, read the story correctly, having your child help build the correct "timeline" as you go. Let them make a timeline of all the important events in the story.

Reading by Turns: Read a book together to your child. Now, try reading it again, but out loud, together with your child. Take turns reading, either page-by-page or sentence-by-sentence. Ask your child questions about the story as you go.