



Literacy Tips for Preschoolers Parent Tips

Do you like to read? Do your children like to read? Books are gateways to the world. Children are better readers when parents read with them. Use these tips to encourage your child to read!

Put away electronic books and dive into paper and print versions at the local library. The library is a great family field trip for a variety of reasons. First, the library provides a great source of endless adventures to entice the imagination in children of all ages. Give your child the opportunity to experience the library on a regular basis. Second, a young child can have his own library card. Having a personal library card and access to books teaches the life skill of responsibility. The child is responsible for using his card to sign out books and is responsible for taking care of the books. This includes keeping books in a safe place at home, out of the reach of younger siblings or pets. Try using a special bag just for library books with a zippered pocket for the child's library card. Mark the calendar with due dates to avoid overdue books.

Start a personal family library at home. Use bins rather than shelves for small hands to easily access books. Use colored bins or labels on the bins for different genre of books. Show your child how to care for books by holding them gently and carefully turning the pages. If family members are wondering what to buy the child for a birthday or special gift, a book is always a great suggestion. Place a special bookplate with the child's name inside the front cover or ask the giver to please sign and date it. Books are **wonder-full** keepsakes!

Wondering what to read? Let your child lead the way! Children gravitate toward topics of interest. Assist in finding a variety of books on your child's personal interests. Also, share what you're reading with your child. Telling children about different genre (mysteries, biographies, historical fiction, etc.) will increase their knowledge base and expand their desire to read different types of books. When children see Mom and Dad reading and learning, they will be more likely to become life-long learners. And that's the goal!

The discerning heart seeks knowledge...
Proverbs 15:14a

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