

Using Books to Stimulate Your Child's Language

1. **Before reading the story.**
 - Look at the front and back covers. Read the title of the book. Ask your child what do you think this book is about. Ask your child specific questions related to the pictures they see on the covers.
 - Read the name of the book's author and illustrator and make sure your children understand what they do.
 - Review the included vocabulary words &/or manipulatives so that the child can bring understanding to the words and put them into context.

2. **Read the story together.**
 - Read slowly and pause occasionally to think out loud about the story and let your child know you appreciate their participation.
 - You can speculate: "I wonder what's going to happen next!" Or ask a question: "Do you know what a palace is?" Or point out: "Look where the little mouse is now." When youngsters anticipate what's coming next in a story or poem, they have a sense of mastery over books. When children feel power, they have courage to try. Pretending to read is an important step in the process of learning to read.
 - Answer your children's questions, and if you think they don't understand something, stop and ask them. Don't worry if you break into the flow of a story to make something clear.

3. **After reading the story.**
 - Review the story sequence. Ask the child what happened at the beginning, middle and the end.
 - Talk about if you liked the book, who was your favorite character, what was your favorite part, did you like the way the story ended and how would you have ended the story.
 - Point to things in books that she can relate to in her own life: "Look at the picture of the penguin. Do you remember the penguin we saw at the zoo?"
 - Encourage your child to ask questions and talk about the story. Develop your own questions and discussion related to the story.

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