

# PARENT TIPS

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## Build Book Interest

Give books as gifts. Visit the library to check out books or bookstores. Engage in conversations about books with other children and adults.

## Echo Read

Read out loud while tracking the words on the page with a bookmark or finger. Read with expression and flair. Then have the child read the same page while mimicking expression and tracking. Don't read like a robot.

## Talk About Books

If your child is reading independently, ask them what happened in the story. They can retell you the beginning, middle and end. Or they can tell you their favorite part and why. Always keep book talk light, fun and pleasant.



## Choose Books Wisely

Children benefit from reading books that are not too difficult or too easy. Books that children self-select based on interest and passion are especially good, even if they are challenging. Seek help if needed from teachers and librarians. Remember the “rule of thumb”: the child puts down a finger beginning with the pinky each time they come across an unknown word. If they get to the thumb (5 unknown words on a page) the book may be too challenging.



## Make Predictions

Ask your child: What will this book be about? What will happen next? How will the character solve the problem? Read to find out if their predictions are correct.

## Build Vocabulary

Since the best way to build vocabulary is through oral interaction and reading books with rich vocabulary, parents should point out any challenging, interesting, and confusing words along the way. Encourage children to predict meanings of unknown words. Go deeper by playing association and rhyming games. Look up words they don't know and challenge them to use new words in their writing. Remember it's not enough to know what a word means. To become part of their vocabulary, the child must use the word.

## Prioritize Reading Time

Make time in the daily routine for reading. Emphasize that this is a pleasant and useful experience by showing children that adults read for pleasure too.

## Partner Read

Both parent and child read a section of a shared book silently, or use two copies. Then at a stopping point discuss something that happened. How and why questions are especially good, or share a favorite sentence or section and explain why it is a favorite. This is a good technique for older readers with chapter books. Consider planning a fun activity to do that relates to the book.

## Inspire Critical Thinking

Ask open-ended questions, beginning with why or how. Go deeper by asking children to explain their answer. And go even deeper by asking them to find textual evidence (pictures and specific words or sentences from the book). Additionally, ask children to make text to self connections (i.e. how would you feel if this happened to you? Has anything like this happened in your life? or with your friends?).

## Limit Screen Time

Pediatricians recommend limiting time spent on screen activities based on children's ages. Visit the American Academy of Pediatrics' website for more information.



**More Reading Resources: <https://csufreadingresources.center/>**