

BHMCS TITLE I READING



Reading Together

Psychologists and educators agree that spending quality time with your child(ren) is vital in their development. One of the best ways to spend quality time is to read a book together. Children cherish the closeness of reading together and as a parent you can discover many insights into how your child feels and reacts.

Suggestions as to how to share a book with your child:

1. Have a special location to display your read together books. Children love the anticipation of reading a brightly illustrated book.
2. If the book is fiction, ask your child what he/she thinks the book is about based on the title and cover. Write down the prediction and check it after you read the book together.
3. If the book is non-fiction, ask your child what he/she thinks they will learn from the book. Write down the prediction and check it after you read the book together.
4. As you read, make note of any new words or phrases that your child learned while reading. Create a *new word journal* and write the new words and their meanings in the journal. Encourage your child to use the new words and phrases as they write.
5. If your child likes the book, go to the library and see if the author has written any other books. Begin an author file of favorite authors.
6. If the book is a fiction book, discuss the ending with your child: Did they feel the ending made sense, how would they change the ending, did the ending answer all their questions, etc.?
7. If the book is non-fiction, ask your child if they want to learn more about the book's subject. Go to the library and take out other age-appropriate books on the same or similar topics.
8. Try to relate the book's subject or information to your or your child's life. Children love to hear about their parent's childhood. Family stories help build a special bond between parent and child.
9. Birthdays are always special times for children. Use the opportunity to increase their love of reading. Use their favorite book or fictional character as a theme for their party. Dress as the character or role-play as if you or they were the character.
10. Don't make reading together an exercise in questioning and answering. A few questions about the book, its setting, and plot are fine but a lengthy exam of each detail will turn your child off to reading. Reading should be for pleasure.

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