

READERS AND WRITERS

Quick tips for families to help support their growing readers and writers



LOOK! I CAN READ THIS!

<https://www.readingrockets.org/pdfs/edextras/19299-en.pdf>

It can be so exciting when a child begins to read! Beginning readers are starting to put it all together, and often want to do it all by themselves. As a parent, it's important to support them in a positive way and help them along the reading path.

When reading with a beginning reader:

- Model fingerpoint reading. That means to follow the words with your finger from left to right as you read them. Your beginning reader will do the same thing for a while.
- Practice patience! Beginning readers may read slowly. Give your child time to solve the words, and try not to jump in too quickly.
- Encourage attention to letters and sounds. If your child is stuck on a word, coach them to look at the first letter of the word and make the letter's sound. Of course, only do this for words that can be sounded out! If the word can't be sounded out, just supply the word for them.
- Talk about the story. When your child is finished with a book, be sure to talk about what happened in the story, and maybe re-read favourite parts.
- Let them know how proud you are! By sharing a book with a child, you're sharing the joys and excitement of reading.

A BEGINNING READER:

- *can name the letters in the alphabet and can tell you many of the letter sounds*
- *understands the concept of a "word"*
- *is beginning to recognize a few words within text or from a list*
- *is beginning to represent the first and maybe last sound of a word when trying to spell*





TIPS | for parents of Kindergartners

Play with letters, words, and sounds! Having fun with language helps your child learn to crack the code of reading. The tips below offer some fun ways you can help your child become a happy and confident reader. Try a new tip each week. See what works best for your child.

■ **Talk to your child.**

Ask your child to talk about his day at school. Encourage him to explain something they did, or a game he played during recess.

■ **Say silly tongue twisters.**

Sing songs, read rhyming books, and say silly tongue twisters. These help kids become sensitive to the sounds in words.

■ **Read it and experience it.**

Connect what your child reads with what happens in life. If reading a book about animals, relate it to your last trip to the zoo.

■ **Use your child's name.**

Point out the link between letters and sounds. Say, "John, the word *jump* begins with the same sound as your name. *John, jump*. And they both begin with the same letter, J."

■ **Play with puppets.**

Play language games with puppets. Have the puppet say, "My name is *Mark*. I like words that rhyme with my name. Does *park* rhyme with *Mark*? Does *ball* rhyme with *Mark*?"

■ **Trace and say letters.**

Have your child use a finger to trace a letter while saying the letter's sound. Do this on paper, in sand, or on a plate of sugar.

■ **Write it down.**

Have paper and pencils available for your child to use for writing. Working together, write a sentence or two about something special. Encourage your child to use the letters and sounds he or she is learning about in school.

■ **Play sound games.**

Practice blending sounds into words. Ask "Can you guess what this word is? *m - o - p*." Hold each sound longer than normal.

■ **Read it again and again.**

Go ahead and read your child's favorite book for the 100th time! As you read, pause and ask your child about what is going on in the book.

■ **Talk about letters and sounds.**

Help your child learn the names of the letters and the sounds the letters make. Turn it into a game! "I'm thinking of a letter and it makes the sound mmmmmmm."

Visit www.ReadingRockets.org for more information on how you can launch a child into a bright future through reading.