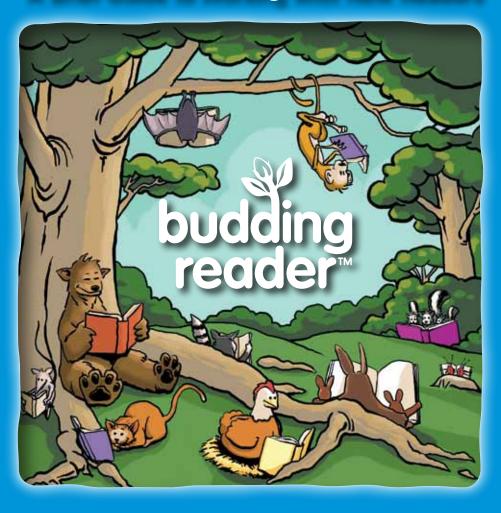
Ready? Get Set. Go!

A Brief Guide to Working with New Readers



Ready?

How do I know if you are ready to learn to read?



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Children who are ready to learn to read demonstrate six important pre-reading skills.



1. Notice printed language & know how to use books.

They are aware of printed words in their environment. They know how to hold a book right side up, to turn one page at a time and to read words from left to right.



2. Use many words.

They know the names of many things and use a variety of common words.



3. Want to learn.

They are interested in books and want to learn to read.



4. Know letters & sounds.

They know the names and primary sounds of most letters. They understand that letters represent unique sounds and recognize letters when they see them.



5. Can tell or retell a story.

They are able to tell stories and describe events. They can retell a story that they have heard.



6. Distinguish sounds within words.

They can name words that start with the same sound, make rhymes and identify the individual sounds within words.



To promote reading readiness, here are ten things to do.

This is really important!



To promote reading readiness:

1. Read to your child every day.

This is the single most important thing to do. Reading expands vocabulary and general knowledge. It improves memory, listening and reading skills.



2. Ask questions before, during & after reading.

This improves comprehension.

Before reading, predict what will happen in a story. During reading, answer children's questions. After reading, ask open ended questions.



3. Tell stories to each other.

This increases verbal proficiency, enhances communication skills and improves concentration.



4. Sing songs & read rhymes.

This helps children hear and identify sounds that make up words.



5. Point out sounds in words.

This fosters an understanding of how sounds of spoken language are put together to form words. Ask questions like: "What three sounds do you hear in the word cat?"

(Answer: /c/ /a/ /t/)



6. Talk & listen.

Having conversations increases vocabulary and language skills and teaches children to think while they talk.



7. Visit the library.

This reinforces the importance of books and reading.



8. Let your child see you reading & writing.

When children see adults in their lives reading and writing, they want to learn to read and write, too.



9. Encourage writing (even scribbling).

This reinforces the notion that written words represent spoken language.



10. Limit TV & encourage active play.

This develops mind and body.

Get Set





Before asking a child to read a story to you, follow these simple steps.



Before asking a child to read a story to you:



Previewing is an important lifelong skill for increasing reading comprehension.



Before asking a child to read a story to you:

Read the book to the child, pointing to each word as you say it.

This takes some of the pressure off of new readers and helps to ensure a successful reading experience.



Before asking a child to read a story to you:



Read together as partners.

The following partner reading techniques make learning to read easier and more fun for new readers.



Shared Reading:

Have your child read just one simple word every time it appears. You read the rest. Gradually, increase the number of words the child reads.



Echo Reading:

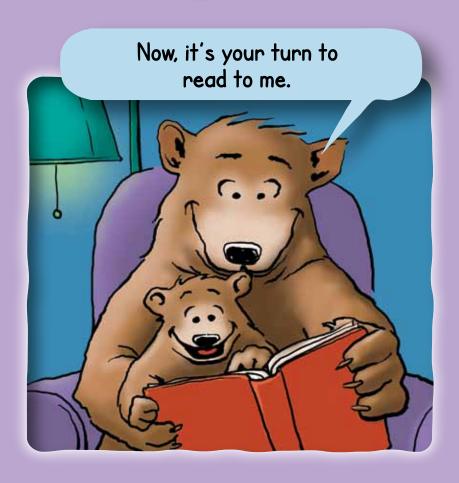
You read a page, then have the child read the same page to you.



Choral Reading:

Both of you read aloud simultaneously.

Go!





During the reading session, praise reading attempts and successes.

Learning to read is hard work and children need encouragement.



Keep in mind that many sight words must be memorized.

Sight words are short, simple words such as *was* and *said* which cannot be sounded out.



After the child has read to you, ask open ended questions to improve comprehension.



Why

did Goldilocks go into the bear's cottage?



Where

was the cottage?



What

happened when the bears came home?



Who

found Goldilocks in the cottage?



How

do you think the baby bear felt?



This guide is our gift to you because we want to make learning to read easier and more fun for all children.

Would you like to help?



Here's how to help:



Spread the word.

Tweet this. Like us on Facebook. Or, simply, forward this guide to your friends.



Here's how to help:



Support literacy.

Read with a child at school or at home. Support your local library. Contribute to literacy non-profits.



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