

## Reading Strategies for Reading with Infants and Toddlers

**Instructions:** Select 1 or more of the strategies below you would like to practice with your child to make reading an enjoyable experience.

Select	Reading Strategies	Examples
	Ask questions about the story.	<u>Who</u> will open the door? <u>What's</u> going to happen next? <u>Why</u> is the zookeeper locking the cages? <u>How</u> will the monkey find his mommy?
	Have conversation about the story.	Use the story to have a back-and-forth conversation with your child. <i>Parent:</i> What will the dog do now? <i>Child:</i> Woof! Woof! <i>Parent:</i> Yes, I think he will bark for help! I wonder who will help him. <i>Child:</i> (pats book) <i>Parent:</i> Let's see who will help the dog find his bone. (turns page)
	Be animated while reading.	Change your voice, make sounds, gesture, laugh, and use your body to tell the story.
	Adjust pacing to allow child to answer your questions.	Pause after you ask a question or make a comment to allow your child to respond.
	Define unknown words.	Explain new words to your child. <i>Parent:</i> That's a barn. A barn is where animals sleep.
	Extend the book into an activity after reading.	Do an activity after the book to extend the story. You can do an art activity, sing, do a fingerplay, a gross motor activity, or anything else that connects to the story in the book.
	Take a picture walk.	Describe the pictures in the book. Tell your own story by using the pictures in the book.
	Encourage child to act out story.	Ask your child to do what the characters in the story are doing. For example, you child can quack like a duck, walk like a bear, or hide like his favorite character in the story.
	Share control of the book.	Allow the child pick the book, turn pages, skip pages, and talk about what interests him or her about the story.
	Have a relaxed, warm attitude while reading.	Hold your child while you read. Use your child's favorite blanket or toy while reading. Maybe use the blanket to create a fort. Try reading to a favorite toy.
	Be in a comfortable position.	Allow your child to cuddle with you in a comfortable position on the floor, couch, or bed.
	Allow child to mouth and manipulate the book.	Allow babies and toddlers to use all of their senses to explore books. This included putting books in their mouth, opening and closing books, and turning pages.
	Link pictures or story to child's experience	Talk about familiar activities and objects you see in the pictures or read about in the story and connect it to experiences your child has had in the past. <i>Parent:</i> Look! It's a bus. Remember when we rode the big bus downtown?
	Read just for a few minutes, instead of reading the book from cover to cover.	Young children can only sit for a few minutes for a story. Let your child decide how much (or how little) time you spend reading. And you don't need to read every page. You may find that your child has a favorite page or even a favorite picture. She may want to linger there for a while, and then switch books or activities. Babies may just want to mouth the book!