



How to raise a reader

TIPS AND TRICKS TO MAKE IT EASY FOR YOUR CHILD TO LEARN READING



by

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Learning to read is one of the most important things a child learns in life.

“BECAUSE CHILDREN
FIRST LEARN TO READ AND
THEN
READ TO LEARN.”

A child who loves reading will easily fall in love with learning.



It is therefore very important to introduce children to reading such that they fall in love with reading.

IN THIS BOOK I SHARE TIPS AND TRICKS THAT WILL MAKE IT EASY FOR YOUR CHILD TO LEARN READING.

This is not a phonics course.

The tips below will make it easy for you to get your child excited and enthusiastic about learning to read.

If you want to learn how to teach your child reading in the easiest possible way – connect with me and sign up for my next “Teach your child how to read” course.

Let’s begin with the tips -

TIP 1

Introduce your child to books and reading as early as possible

- Help your child to get familiar with books and reading as early as possible in life.
- Use these tips to teach them how to read. But don't expect them to learn
- Starting early ensures that there is no pressure on your child. Whatever your child reads is thrilling because reading is still not an essential skill.
- When you start teaching late – there is invariably a lot of peer pressure, because many other children the same age around you are likely to be fluent readers by that time. This can lead to you criticizing your child and comparing them with other children.
- This negativity around reading may result in your child hating books and reading.
- And this can be a big roadblock in your child's learning journey.

TIP 2

Don't start teaching them ABC

- Most people believe that if children know the ABC – they will be able to put the letters together and form words and read sentences and paragraphs.
- But this is not how the brain learns how to read.
- Reading is about identifying sounds.
- Give your child plenty of opportunities to listen to the sounds of the words.
- Talk to them and read them lots of stories.

TIP 3

Help your child to speak the language

- If you are trying to teach your child English, your child must first learn how to understand English. And then learn how to speak English. Only then can they learn how to read English.
- Speak to your child in English.
- Have contextual conversations. For example –
- Ask - “Do you want milk in your cup or glass?”
- Do this while showing the milk – the cup and the glass.
- At first your child may point out their answer.
- Slowly they will learn to use the relevant word – in this case “cup” or “glass” to ask for what they want.
- This is how you can encourage your child to speak the language.

TIP 4

Read yourself

- Children are great imitators. In fact, imitation is the natural way the brain is programmed to learn.
- Give your child the opportunity to imitate you reading.
- Sit and read yourself.
- Read for pleasure when you're not stressed.
- Read in preference to watching TV or watching videos on the phone.
- Read from a book because you want your child to read from a book not a device.
- If your child comes and climbs onto your lap while you are reading – do not scold them and send them away with “I'm reading now. Go away”
- That will make your child hate books because your child will resent the book for taking you away from them.
- If your child comes to you when you are reading take your child onto your lap and continue reading,
- Give your child another book so that he or she can pretend to read as well.
- Bond over reading.

TIP 5

Have board books and rag books lying around the house

- Have a few board books or rag books lying around the house which your child can pick up and leaf through whenever they are moving around the house. They can pick these books up just like they would pick up a toy. And this would help get their eyes used to the letters of the alphabet.
- Since rag books and board books don't get spoiled easily – it is better to have these instead of regular books which are likely to tear easily.
- Books like these are sturdy so you will not have to keep yelling at your child to prevent them from damaging them. If your child thinks that every time, they pick up a book someone will yell at them they will hate books.
- So, board books and rag books are the best to have around.

TIP 6

Allow your toddler to pretend that they are reading

- Toddlers will not be able to read. But if you read a story to your child enough times – your child will learn the story word for word and be able to repeat it.
- You can then ask your toddler to run their finger along the words on the page like you do and tell the story.
- You can allow them to pretend that they are reading the story themselves and applaud them for it.
- A lot of people think that pretending to read is cheating, but it is not.
- A child who wants to be an engine driver will pretend to drive an engine. A child who wants to fly a plane will pretend to fly a plane.
- Similarly, a child who wants to read should be encouraged to pretend that they are reading.

TIP 7

Read to your child every day

- Every day make it a routine to read your child.
- I know we have busy lives, but it is important.
- If you make your child fall in love with books – it will save you a lot of time later in life when you need to teach your child other things.
- Because, if your child loves books – they will learn everything themselves from books. You will not need to teach them too much or force them to read.
- Tag your 'read to your child time' with meals. You will never miss a meal so you will never miss reading time.
- If you're at home, you could read after breakfast. If you are working, then you could read after dinner.
- But make sure you read.
- Tagging reading time with meal times has the added advantage of making your child eat faster because they have something exciting to look forward to

TIP 8

Be interested

- It is difficult for parents to be interested in stories that toddlers like because the stories have very little content and toddlers like the stories to be read to them repeatedly.
- And yet it is extremely important for you to be interested in the story and excited about reading it out to your baby.
- This is because toddlers don't really understand the story you are reading to them.
- They connect with the story and the book through you.
- Your emotions of excitement and curiosity connect your child to the story. And slowly – because you like the story – your child begins to like the story too.
- Eventually – because your child likes you and the story – your child also begins to like books in general – all books.
- And this is what our aim is.

TIP 9

Follow this method while reading

- Read with expressions. If the sentence has the word 'big' in it – say BIG showing big and if it has the word 'small' express small through your tone and actions.
- Stop at the end of every sentence and ask a question. If the sentence is “In a dense jungle there lived a big lion and tiny little mouse” – Your question would be –
- Who lived in the jungle?
- Answer the question yourself – with expressions and while pointing at the pictures.
- Do not expect your toddler to give you the answer.
- From the “who’ move on to ‘where’
- Answer your own questions such that your child grasps the whole sentence.
- Then repeat the sentence pointing at the lion – the mouse and the jungle.
- Do this for every sentence.
- Once your child has understood the who and where of the story – move on and talk about what they did
- The concept of why they did what they did will take a long time for your child to grasp. So don't expect to tell them a story and hope for them to tell you the moral of the story.
- Such expectations will fill you with disappointment and frustration. And your child will absorb your vibe and begin to hate reading and books.

TIP 10

Teach your child how to handle books

- Once your child understands the story and it becomes a favorite story - encourage your child to read the story himself or herself.
- The first step is to hold the books straight. Help your child to do that by showing them the pictures that go with the story.
- Show them how to turn the book so that the sky is up, and the grass is down.

TIP 11

Show your child how to turn the pages

- Children are eager to flip the pages. Teach them how to turn the pages in the right direction.
- If your child already knows the story, the child would know that at first the lion was roaming around in the jungle and much later the lion was stuck in the net.
- Tell your child that you need to turn the pages such that you first have the lion roaming in the jungle and then you have the lion stuck in the net.
- Your child will quickly learn to move the pages in that sequence.
- That will teach your child the right way to turn pages.

TIP 12

Show your child how to move their eyes through the page

- Before your child can read, they must learn how to follow the lines from left to right and from top to bottom with their eyes
- They learn this by watching us read.
- When you are reading to your child hold your child on your lap put the book on your child's lap and then follow the words with your finger from left to right and then from top to bottom.
- Do this every time you read the story.
- You will find that the child gets into the habit of moving his or her eyes from left to right and from top to bottom.

TIP 13

Build your child's curiosity

- Your child will be motivated to read if they are curious about the story.
- Curiosity will generate interest and interest will generate enthusiasm.
- Look at the pictures and say – “You know, it looks like the mouse is saying something to the lion. Shall we open the book and find out what the lion and the mouse are saying to each other?”
- That takes your child through the story to the point where the lion and the mouse are having a conversation and that motivates the child.
- The excitement of finding out what's being said or what's happening will make your child go through the story.
- Everybody reads books because they are excited about finding out what happened in the end.
- If you get your child excited about the content of books – they will be motivated to learn how to read as soon as they can.

TIP 14

Focus on rhythm and rhyme

- The ability to detect rhyming sounds and patterns can speed up your child's acquisition of reading skills.
- Read books which have stories with sentences that end with rhyming words.
- Words like King ring sing ding and so on.
- This helps the child to understand that just changing one letter in the word changes the meaning of the word and the sound of the word.
- That is a very important step towards learning how to read.
- Once your child understands that just remembering the sound of the first letter helps them read so many more words - your child will feel enthusiastic about reading – because they will realize that reading is easy.

TIP 15

Teach your child the alphabet song with sounds

- Almost every child knows the alphabet song with the names of the letters.
- a b c d e f g and so on
- This however is the wrong thing to teach – because to read – your child does not need to know the names of the letters. They need to know the sounds of the letters.
- Teach your child the alphabet song with the sounds that the letters make while showing them the letters.
- This helps the child to associate the letter with the sound and make words easily when they're reading.

TIP 16

Teach your child the vowel sounds

- Teach your child the sounds of a,e,i,o,u
- Show them how vowels connect other letters and make new words.
- For example, cat and cut are different only because the vowel used in the middle is different

TIP 17

Teach your child how to blend sounds

- Children naturally blend sounds and say them over and over.
- Like they may say brrrbrrbrrr over and over again until you ask them to stop.
- Don't stop them. Join them in creating more blends.
- Pick two consonants (letters other than a,e,i,o,u) that commonly go together and blend them.
- Have fun saying them over and over with your child.
- Then do it for another set of consonants

TIP 18

Teach your child the sound of certain common letter combinations

- Certain letters join together to make a sound that is different from their individual sounds
- CH makes the ch sound like in chip
- SH makes the sh sound like in ship
- TH makes the th sound like in there
- WH makes the wh sound like in where
- When your child learns to identify these patterns and make the relevant sounds – and learns how to pronounce blends – they will be able to read real words.
- And this is very encouraging

TIP 19

Teach your child the sound of glued letters

- Help your child learn the sound of the glued letters.
- For example – if you teach your child that the sound of i-n-g is ing
- Your child can read a number of words like - king ring sing, bling ding – just by using the letter sounds or the blend sounds that they already know.
- Once your child finds reading easy – your child will be enthusiastic to read more and more – and that will make them fluent readers.

HOW TO TEACH YOUR CHILD TO READ FASTER.

TEACH SOUNDS WITH **DIAGRAPHS**

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TEACH RECALL WITH **SIGHT WORDS**

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TEACH SOUNDS WITH **GLUED WORDS**

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FOR MORE TIPS, READ THE ARTICLE
"HOW TO TEACH MY CHILD TO READ AT HOME"

TIP 20

Teach your child sight words

- Teach your child how to read words like “yes” and “come” and “the”
- It is best if you can teach your child all the sight words in a story – then she/he can read it out her/himself.
- Use flash cards to play a memory game with sight words written on cards and turned over. Do only one or two words at a time to keep it easy and fun

TO SUMMARIZE

- Read yourself so that your child wants to read
- When your child wants to read – apply phonics and make reading easy for them
- When reading becomes easy – encourage your child to read more—and that will make them fluent readers.
- Every child learns how to read at a different age. And there is no cut off age before which a child should not be introduced to books.
- But this is a rough reading milestone guide.
- By age 3 – most children should be able to listen to stories and be able to retell them in their own words if they have heard the story enough times. They should have developed an interest in exploring books on their own when they find them lying around.
- By age 4 – most children recognize familiar letters and words like their own names and other familiar words on hoardings or on product labels.
- By age 5 – most children can read simple words in a story. They can also write some easy words.
- Don't think of teaching your how child how to read as a task.
- Think of it as an opportunity to bond with your child and savour the experience.

Good luck, Happy reading

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