



مدينة الملك فهد الطبية
King Fahad Medical City



Storytelling and Book Reading for Children and Toddlers

When do I start reading stories to my child?

You can start reading children stories before they are even born. Research shows that children develop auditory memory when they are in the womb. So do not wait for your child to start talking to read them stories. Start from the day they are born.

Storybook reading teaches them the sounds and prosody of language, as well as stimulates receptive and expressive language acquisition.

The purpose of storybook reading is not to teach them to read, but rather help them develop pre-literacy skills:

What are books?

How to read them?

How speech in organized in books?

What is Dialogic Reading?

Dialogic reading are techniques helps children develop expressive / spoken language.



These techniques use:

Open Ended Questions

- **What do you expect to happen in the next page?**

Repetition

- **Periodically reading the story day in and day out**

Language Model

- **An older sibling, who would correctly answer the questions occasionally to model the correct responses**

These techniques aim to shift the dynamic and gradually make the child the primary reader. So after

a while, the child will read the story to his parent not the other way around.

Dialogic reading helps prepare children for future experiences, which are cognitively complex and might contain abstract concepts. It also exposes children to more complex language, which they might not come up in daily life activities and during play.

Why is story reading important?

It boosts the child's confidence, and abilities to participate in classroom activities in the future.

It's a great source of language stimulation, and acquisition of new receptive and expressive vocabulary repertoires.

Helps with relaxation, especially when it is introduced as an integral part of a bedtime routine.

Improves imagination.

Helps deal with emotions, as it helps the children understand their emotions, and accept them. They will read about a character going through the same emotion, and they will not feel alone.



How to choose a book?

Choosing a book depends on:

The child age

The child interest

Educational level of
the reader

The language at
home

Culture at home



What should I take into consideration during reading with my child?

- Discuss the book cover and the main ideas of the story.

- Discuss ideas at the same progression they are mentioned in the story, and do not wait until the end.
- Participate in discussion around the story, and give your child a chance to contemplate the meanings of the story after they have read it.
- You need to have communication, so give your children a chance to engage in conversations; not just be listeners.
- Grab your child's attention, and maintain it, by:

level the book to your child's eyes

Use acoustic highlighting, vocal play, and facial expression during storybook reading.

Ask their help to flip the pages.

Point at characters and name them.
(look at the bunny, he's jumping quickly)

Ask the children to point out the characters and
details.
(Oh! Where is the bunny?)

Always answer the children's questions and
comments.

Occasionally act things out.

How can I help my child to read?

**Birth –
3
Months**

Hold your children close, speak to them and sing to them. Also read them stories.

**3 – 6
Months**

Children of this age will like to look at pictures, colors and shapes. Try to choose books with bold colors and different textures.

**6 – 12
Months**

Children will be able to sit, look at the pictures and touch them. Expect them to mouth the books (place them in their mouths), so choose books made from plastic or cardboard.

**12 – 18
Months**

Your children might choose books by themselves, and turn pages independently. At this stage, follow the child's interest and ask open ended questions about the book
(What is this?)

18 – 24
Months

Your children may start to name familiar characters in the story, and finish familiar stories. They might "read" a story to their stuffed animals or repeat a story on their own. They also start asking Wh questions (What is this?)

2 – 3
years

At this stage your child can read books made from paper, without tearing the pages. They will probably have a favorite book, and will start leading in story reading activities. Thus, they will recite the story and may connect it to daily life.
(This cat is like my grandmother's cat)

**3 years &
Older**

Your children will be able to flip the individual pages. They will understand longer more complex stories, and will be able to retell it in their own words.

Emerging skills of identification of basic number and letters will be expected.

At this stage, ask your children more complex questions, to count or explain events.

(how many balls are there? What do you expect to happen in the next page?)

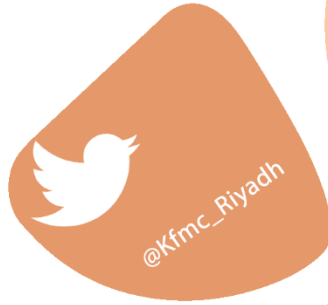
Start searching for books that talk about making friends, going to school, etc...

Encourage your children to write their own stories, illustrate them (draw them) and read them to you.

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إدارة التثقيف الصحي

Communication and swallowing disorders
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