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# Make the Most of Reading Books

There is so much your child can learn from reading a book. Here are some tips for before, during, and after you read a story.

## Introducing the Book:

**When you talk about the book before you read it, your child becomes more excited to hear the story!**

- » Look at the front cover together. Ask, "What do you think the book will be about?"

## While Reading:

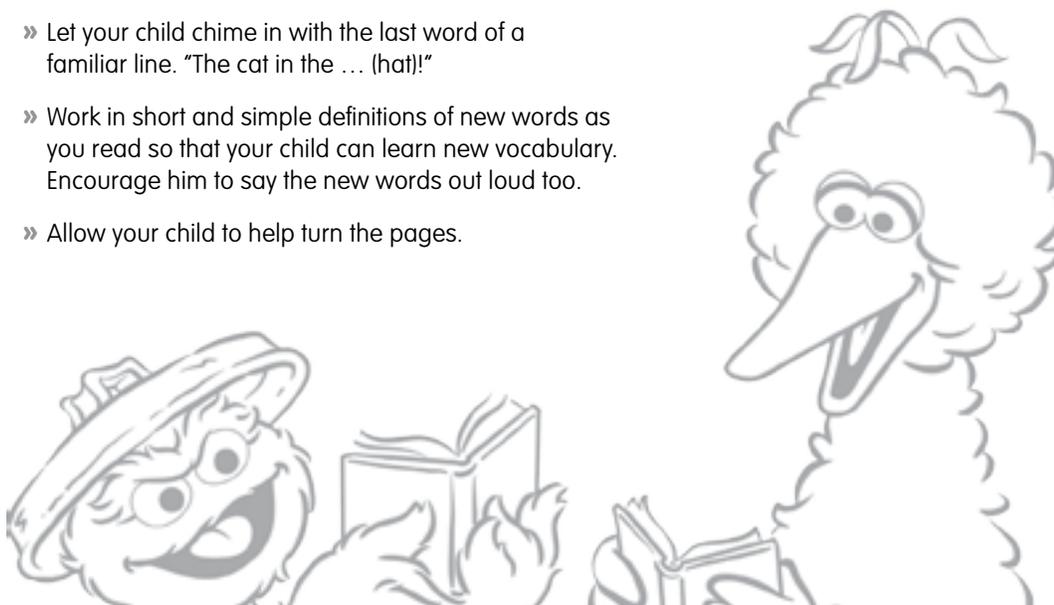
**Look for different opportunities to make the words and pictures exciting and come to life!**

- » Try to be expressive with your voice, feelings, and body movements.
- » You can also ask, "What is happening on this page?"
- » Let your child chime in with the last word of a familiar line. "The cat in the ... (hat)!"
- » Work in short and simple definitions of new words as you read so that your child can learn new vocabulary. Encourage him to say the new words out loud too.
- » Allow your child to help turn the pages.

## After Reading:

**Once you finish reading a book, it's the perfect time to talk about the story and let your child share what he remembers.**

- » Ask questions that encourage your child to think about why certain characters did something or felt a certain way. "Let's go back to this page where Peter looked mad. Why was he mad? What did he decide to do?"
- » Encourage your child to share his favorite parts of the story. He can either talk about them or act them out!
- » You might relate the story back to your child. Ask, "Have you ever felt the same way as the bunny? When?"



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Every Day  
is a **Reading** and  
**Writing** Day

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## Tips for Parents of Children Ages 0–2

Babies are born to learn. Just talking and reading together each day lays the foundation for them to become readers and writers! Here are some fun and simple ways to enjoy talking, reading, and writing together as you go about your daily activities:

### Make every day a talking day.

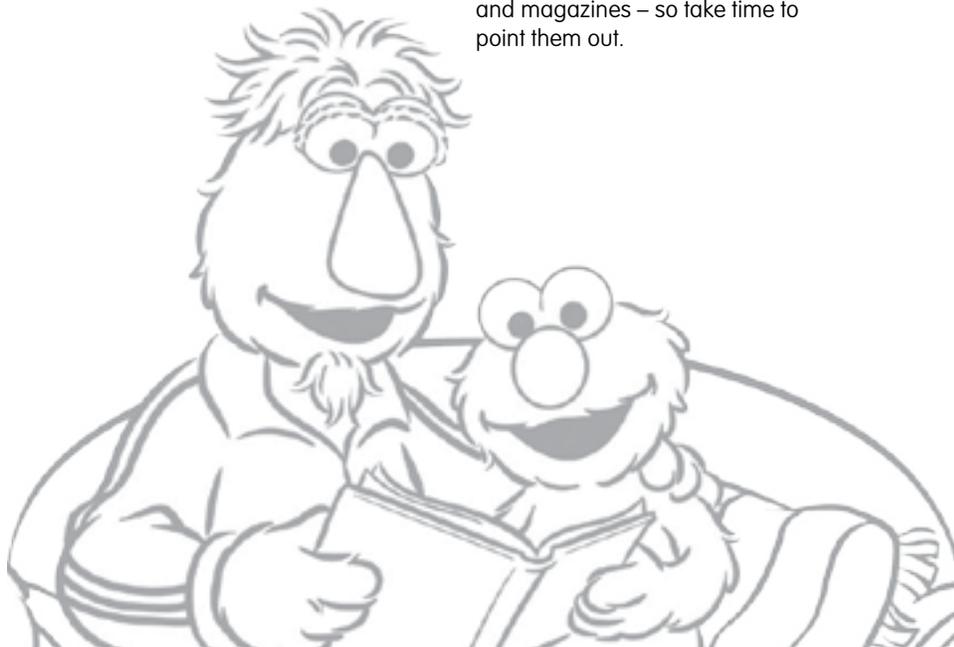
- » **Enjoy conversations.** Your child's smiles, coos, and squeals are her way of talking with you! Make eye contact as you talk, make faces, and imitate her sounds."
- » **Talk and sing together often.** Talk out loud about everything you do and see as you go about your day. You could also sing a song like "Head, shoulders, knees, and toes" while getting dressed or taking a bath.

### Make every day a reading day.

- » **Read aloud together every day.** It's never too early! Babies may want to play with the pages while toddlers want you to read the same story over and over again. This encourages a love for books and reading. Whenever you read, take time to point to and name the pictures.
- » **Read words all around you.** Words are everywhere – on street signs, storefronts, cereal boxes, and magazines – so take time to point them out.

### Make every day a writing day.

- » **Let them explore with their hands.** Give babies many opportunities to practice grabbing and holding toys or finger foods with their hands and fingers.
- » **Encourage them to scribble freely.** Over time, you can give your child a chunky crayon. He'll be delighted to see that he can use it to scribble on paper! After he's done with his drawing, encourage him to tell you about his picture.



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