• Ask if your child liked the ending of the story. Why or why not?

• Ask your child what type of mood the story or chapter in a book creates. Ask how the author created that mood. Was it with words? Pictures? Drawings?

• If your child has read more than one book by the same author, ask how the books are similar or different.

To promote reading for all children

• Set a good example as a reader—read every day at home even if it is a magazine or newspaper.

• Make reading fun—a time that you both look forward to spending together.

Resources

Reading is Fundamental
www.rif.org

U.S. Department of Education
www.ed.gov/parents/read/resources

Reading Rockets
www.readingrockets.org

International Reading Association
www.reading.org

Read-Aloud Handbook
Jim Trelease

This guide was developed to give parents and caregivers some tips to encourage children to want to read—and keep on reading.
**Tips for reading to infants and toddlers**

- Snuggle with your child and his or her favorite blanket or toys as you read.
- Read with expression using different voices for different characters.
- Emphasize rhythms and rhymes in stories. Give your toddler opportunities to repeat rhyming phrases.
- Use pictures to develop speaking vocabulary by talking about what is shown. Encourage your child to repeat what you say or comment on it.
- Encourage your child to ask questions. Provide models of interesting questions and examples of possible answers. “I wonder what is going to happen next? I think the rabbit will get lost because he is not paying attention to where he is going. What do you think?”
- Look for books that are about things that interest your toddler. For example, does your child like cars, insects, or animals?
- Make reading a habit before bedtime, after lunch, or after naptime.
- Give your child a chance to choose his or her own books for reading. If your toddler chooses a book that is too long to hold his attention, read some and skip some, discussing the pictures and how they relate to the story.
- Read stories again and again. Your toddler enjoys repetition and it helps him/her become familiar with the way stories are organized.

**Tips for reading to and with young children in school, kindergarten through third grade**

- Keep reading to your child even when he can read. Choose books that are too difficult or long for him to read alone.
- Try reading books with chapters and talk about what is happening in the story. Encourage your child to make predictions about what will happen next and connect characters or events to those in other books and stories.
- Talk with your child about which stories she likes best. Ask whether she likes adventure stories, mysteries, science fiction, animal stories, or stories about other children. Encourage her to explain the reasons for her preferences.
- Talk with your child about favorite authors and help him find additional books by those authors.
- Take turns reading a story with your child. Don’t interrupt to correct mistakes that do not change the meaning.

**Tips for reading to and with children in grades four through six**

- Take turns reading a book with your child.
- Ask your child to compare a book to another familiar book. How are the characters alike or different? Do the stories take place in similar settings? How are the illustrations the same or different?
- Ask what part of the story or book your child liked best and why.