

Acknowledgment

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Comments and enquiries

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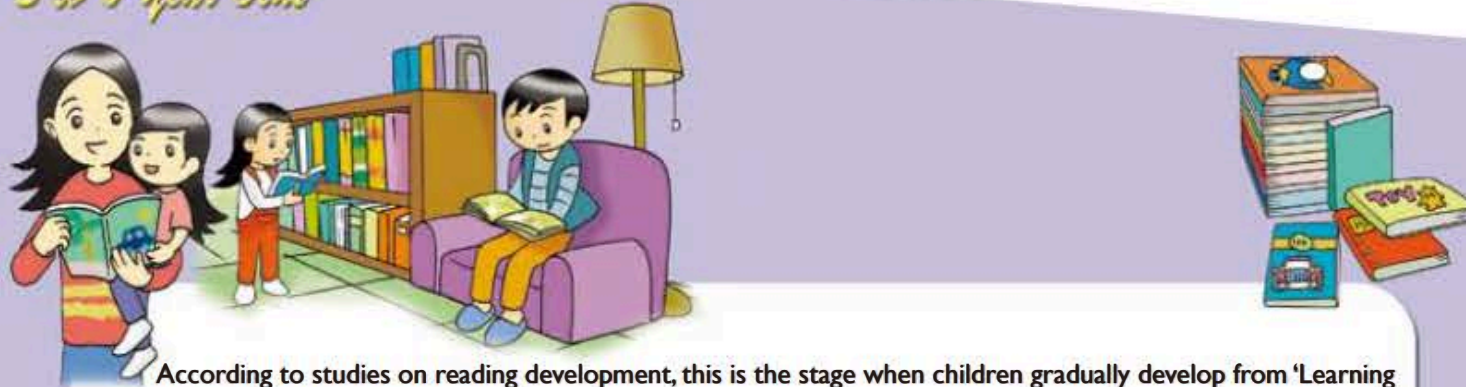
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3 to 6-Year-Olds



According to studies on reading development, this is the stage when children gradually develop from 'Learning to Read' to 'Reading to Learn'.

If pre-schoolers have already started reading with parents and found the experience pleasant and enjoyable, they will have, by this early stage, acquired very strong and sustainable reading habits. Reading is the foundation for learning. The more children love reading, the more they can 'read to learn'.



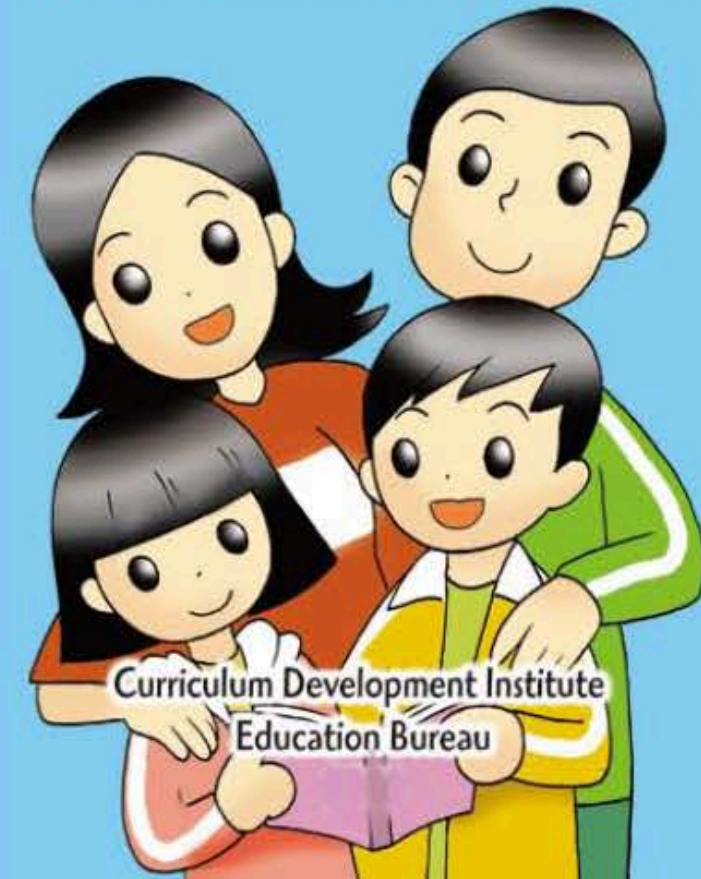
Tips for Parents

- The more parents read with children, the more they will love reading and the more their life experiences will be enriched.
- In selecting picture books and stories, look for texts with recurring phrases and repetitive actions. The repetitive nature facilitates the making of guesses at the development of the plot.
- Discuss the story with children after reading. Share feelings and insights to facilitate parent-child communication.
- Read aloud to provide exposure to the written language.
- Use various ways, for example, retelling stories and drawing pictures to enhance comprehension.
- Play games to sustain interest in reading.
- Create a reading environment at home. Teach children how to love books and read with them on a regular basis.
- Visit bookshops and libraries regularly with children to allow easy access to a great variety of their favourite reading materials.



Parent-child Reading is Fun

for Parents of Children Aged 0 to 9



Help Your Child Love Reading

Babies undergo different stages of development and gradually grow up. All parents aspire for their children to be endowed with intelligence and to attain outstanding academic performance. Intelligence can be nurtured and academic achievement and learning abilities are closely related to reading.

Reading habits need to be developed starting from the early years. There can be 3 stages of growth and development from birth to age 9. Parents who are interested in helping children develop reading habits and interest, are encouraged to make reference to the series of 3 booklets entitled 'Parent-child Reading is Fun', for parents of children aged 0-3, 3-6 and 6-9.

Newborn babies start to hear and then babble in response to speech. By the age of 2 or 3, most babies can make use of some limited vocabulary and short phrases to express themselves. This is the critical stage for learning the mother tongue. Babies have different abilities and paces in language learning. There is a close relationship between language development and parental guidance.

At this early stage, parents should expose children to picture books and show them what books are like. If children take reading as part of their daily routines, it is easier for them to develop a love of reading.

0 to 3-Year-Olds



Tips for Parents

- Parents cannot be replaced. Spend more time to interact with children.
- Talk to babies to expose them to everyday speech. Speak softly and give positive responses to encourage communication.
- Take advantage of every opportunity, no matter where you are, what you see and do, to talk to children and encourage them to respond accordingly.
- Select picture books which are interesting in content and made of different materials that are safe. Help children feel that books are fun.
- By the age of 1 or 2, parents can start showing children what books are really like and schedule a time for reading on a daily basis and be persistent about it.
- Tell children stories, as the act of telling will enhance language competence in the mother-tongue and widen their life experiences.
- Conduct parent-child reading in a relaxed manner and make reading activities pleasurable.
- Give children a sense of achievement by using continual encouragement and lots of praise.



At this stage of development, the influence of school and peers on children becomes increasingly significant. With regard to reading, children gradually become more independent, acquiring different types of knowledge from books. Parents should continue to engage children in family reading activities, but the content of the activities should be different. In pre-school days, the focus is on providing guidance, while at this stage, the emphasis should be on discussion and dialogues.

With appropriate reading resources at home (such as books, computers, newspapers and a desk to read at) and parent role model as active readers, children's reading abilities will continue to develop. Home-school co-operation is essential as supported by the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) which stated that with closer home-school co-operation, there was greater improvement in children's reading literacy.



Tips for Parents

- Engage children in interesting reading activities and buy books for gifts. Increase the collection of books at home by making good use of public and school library resources.
- Provide children with desks specifically for study. Create space for reading, including time and a quiet environment.
- Provide children with newspapers with healthy contents and of high language standard.
- Encourage children to read a variety of materials, according to their interests and abilities.
- Television provides entertainment, current events, information and various kinds of knowledge. As long as the content is healthy, parents should allow children to spend reasonable viewing time on it. Also, encourage the reading of sub-titles and relevant materials afterwards.
- Guide children to visit websites with healthy contents to broaden their scope of reading and develop their independent learning abilities. Establish rules on reading Internet information with children to prevent them from being addicted to it.
- Be good role models of reading for children to help cultivate good reading habits.
- Participate actively in home-school activities to promote reading.

