

# Fostering Reading Growth

All children learn at different rates and in different ways. However, there are some general patterns of growth for learning to read. This handout describes stages of learning to read, as well as offering tips for caregivers as they support children in their first attempts at reading on their own. It is vital to note: when children begin to want to read books on their own, it is very important to continue reading to them as well! Reading aloud provides an opportunity for children to spend quality time with a loved one, increase vocabulary, develop language, and interact with texts too challenging for children to read themselves.

## *A Note About Teaching Children to Read:*

This resource has been provided to help simplify the process of learning to read and coaching a beginning reader; however, it is not a librarian's, caregiver's or parent's responsibility to teach children how to read. Children enrolled in a quality school program should be taught how to read by a knowledgeable professional. These guidelines have been provided for caregivers who want to help support children as they grow through the stages of reading.



## Stage 1: Read TONS of Books to Me



*Text Credit: ARC Press*

### Caregiver Coaching Tips for Reading TONS of Books:

1. Reading aloud should be fun!
2. Read to your child in any language that feels comfortable to you!
3. From time to time, point to the words as you read. You are modeling how the words on the page tell the story.

## Stage 2: Emphasizing Rereading Familiar Books



*Text Credit: ARC Press*

### 3 Caregiver Coaching Tips for Rereading:

1. Reading the same story over and over again is a great way to support your child's reading.
2. Encourage your child to read the story by using the pictures - and telling the story from their memory.
3. It's important that what your child says matches the pictures. It's ok if what they say doesn't match the words on the page exactly.

## Stage 3: Reading Pattern Books. Easy as A, B, C



Text Credit: ARC Press

### Caregiver Coaching Tips for Pattern Books:

- A. Read the first two pages aloud ; then ask your child to follow the pattern to read the rest of the pages.
- B. You and your child should touch each word as you read it. Say, “As you read the words, touch each word as you say it.”

I love my bowl.

\* \* \* \*



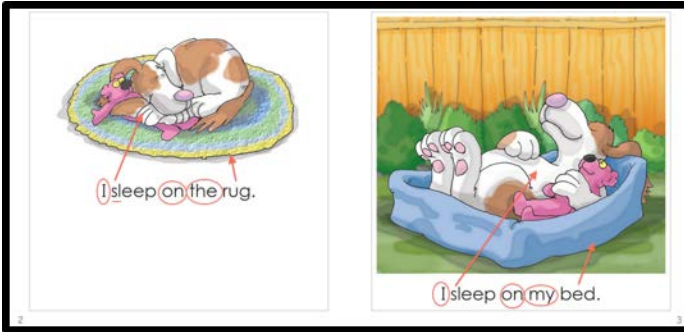
- C. Encourage your child to make sure that the first letter of each word they say matches the sound they are saying.



I love my bowl.

If your child reads, “I love my milk,” encourage them to look at the first letter/sound in that last word, “bowl.” What sound does the “b” say? Now, look at the picture. What in the picture starts with the sound /b/?

## Stage 4: Simple Books with Picture Clues



Text Credit: ARC Press

### Beginning Sight Words:

Words you can read just by looking at them. No sounding out needed.

I	at	is	to	like
me	it	am	come	and
a	this	in	here	up
go	see	my	you	look
the	said	we	on	can

### Caregiver Coaching Tips for Simple Books with Picture Clues:

1. Point out sight words to your child as you read.
2. Reread books over and over again.
3. Play with sight words! Try sight word bingo, memory games, etc.

*Please note: Drilling or quizzing children with sight word flash cards is not a great idea for building a love of reading.*

## Stage 5 and Beyond!

### More Sentences, More Sight Words, More Tricks!



*Text Credit: ARC Press*

### Caregiver Coaching Tips for Stage 5 and Beyond:

1. Lead with your child's interest. It's important that they are excited to read and that they choose what they read. Re-read books over and over again.
2. If your child makes a mistake that doesn't make sense, here are the three essential questions to ask them:
  - Does the word look right?
  - Does it sound right?
  - Does it make sense?
3. Try not to tell children the words. If your child doesn't know a word here are some coaching tricks you can try:
  - What sound does the first letter say?
  - Does the picture help you?
  - Can you find a part of the word that you do know?