

# For Children with Speech and Language Delay

Being read to is a part of a rich childhood and will help your child develop and learn. Your child might not be able to understand some of the words in a story or tell you the names of things on the page. But she enjoys cuddling up with you and sharing something colorful and interesting. And, over time, the words may make more sense, and she might be able to start repeating them, signing to you, or letting you know in other ways that she is sharing a meaningful experience with you. Her enjoyment can be your guide to choosing a book at the right level; you can try a book for an older age or go back to an old favorite. Reading aloud helps to make reading fun, strengthens her speech and language skills, and gives her a gift that will last for life—the love of books.

## READING TIPS FOR YOUR Infant or Toddler

- **Sit together and read at a time of day when reading can be fun and relaxing.** Younger children may have a shorter attention span, so **try reading for a few minutes at a time at first.**
- **Read the same story again and again.** The repetition will help him learn language.
- **Choose books with rhymes or songs.** Clap along to the rhythm and help him clap along. As he develops, ask him to fill in words. *"Twinkle twinkle little star, How I wonder what you ...."*
- **Point to pictures and talk about them.** *"Look at the silly monkey!"* You can also ask him to point to certain pictures. *"Where's the cat?"*
- **Talk about events in your child's life that relate to the story.** *"That bear has blue pajamas just like you!"*
- **Ask him questions about the story.** *"Is that bunny hiding?"* As he develops, ask more complex questions. *"What do you think will happen next?"*

## READING TIPS FOR YOUR Preschool or School-Age Child

- **Talk about the story with him.** *"Why do you think the monkey stole the key?"*
- **Help him become aware of letter sounds.** While pointing to a picture of a snake, ask *"What sound does a snake make?"* As your child develops, ask more complex questions. *"What sound does 'ball' start with?"*
- **Play sound games.** List words that rhyme (*"ball" "tall"*) or start with the same sound (*"mommy" "mix"*).
- **Your child's early reading and writing skills develop at the same time, so help him use crayons, markers, and paint to draw pictures.**



### INFANT OR TODDLER SUGGESTED BOOKS

Mother Goose Rhymes or Dr. Seuss books with rhyming stories

***Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?***

by Bill Martin, Jr.

***Each Peach Pear Plum***

by Allan and Janet Ahlberg

***Chicka Chicka Boom Boom***

by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault

**Sign and Sing Along Series  
(*Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star, Baa Baa Black Sheep, Itsy Bitsy Spider*)**

by Annie Kubler

### PRESCHOOL OR SCHOOL-AGE SUGGESTED BOOKS

Funny or silly books are a good choice for this age group. Some titles include:

***Does a Chimp Wear Clothes?***

by Fred Ehrlich

***Hippos Go Berserk!***

by Sandra Boynton

***Mr. Brown Can Moo! Can You?***

by Dr. Seuss



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# RESOURCES

## BOOKS FOR OLDER CHILDREN

***Let's Talk About Stuttering*** (Ages 4–8)  
by Susan Kent (1999)

***Sammy Goes to Speech*** (Ages 3-7)  
by Marissa Siegel (2018)

***Aidan Goes to Speech*** (Ages 4-7)  
by Lisa Mortensen (2018)

***Coping with Stuttering*** (Ages 9–12)  
by Melanie Ann Apel (2000)

## BOOKS FOR PARENTS

***Childhood Speech, Language, and Listening Problems***  
by Patricia Hamaguchi (1995)

***The Parent's Guide to Speech and Language Problems***  
by Debbie Feit and Heidi Feldman (2007)

***Childhood Speech and Language Disorders: Supporting Children and Families on the Path to Communication (Whole Family Approaches to Childhood Illnesses and Disorders)***  
by Suzanne M. Ducharme (2016)

***The New Language of Toys: Teaching Communication Skills to Children with Special Needs***  
by Sue Schwartz (2004)

***Speaking of Apraxia: A Parents' Guide to Childhood Apraxia of Speech***  
by Leslie Lindsay (2012)

## ORGANIZATIONS (find all web resources at [reachoutandread.org/ddresources](http://reachoutandread.org/ddresources))

**American Speech-Language-Hearing Association**  
[asha.org](http://asha.org)

**Speechville Express**  
[speechville.com](http://speechville.com)

**Healthy Children from the American Academy of Pediatrics**  
[healthychildren.org](http://healthychildren.org)

**Apraxia-KIDS (The Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association)**  
[apraxia-kids.org](http://apraxia-kids.org)

**General Information about Speech and Language Disorders**  
[ldonline.org/article/6336](http://ldonline.org/article/6336)

**AAP National Center for Medical Home Implementation**  
[medicalhomeinfo.aap.org](http://medicalhomeinfo.aap.org)

## MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Young children love TV, iPads, videos, and electronic games, but they don't learn as much from looking at screens or pushing buttons as they do spending time reading or playing games with family.
- For children under two years old, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) advises electronic media only for video phone calls with people close to them, such as parents deployed overseas or grandparents.
- For older children, the AAP suggests no more than one hour a day of high-quality programs (such as Public Television).
- Sit with her while she is watching TV or other media, and talk about what she sees.
- Videos with bright lights and catchy tunes can make everything else seem much less interesting. If he struggles to turn off the TV or put down the iPad, it may be a good idea to eliminate screen time altogether.
- Of course, put away your own electronics. Instead, play, sing, talk and read with her.
- For more information on media and technology use, visit [healthychildren.org/english/family-life/media/pages/default.aspx](http://healthychildren.org/english/family-life/media/pages/default.aspx)

Reading tips on the opposite side

