

Question:

I want my child to be a good reader....

What do I need to do?

You are off to a good start by sending your child to Head Start! However, we need your help. Good readers 1) have someone to talk with them about 2.5 hours per day, 2) have someone to read to them several times each week, and 3) have lots of opportunities to write. Children are not in Head Start enough hours for all of this to occur.

EMAA Head Start parents have LOTS of excellent ideas on how our children can become good readers. We will be handing out “EMAA Parents Ideas to Promote Literacy” later this year. In addition, here are some specific ideas that help children to become good readers.

READING A BOOK TO YOUR CHILD

1. Teach *features of the book* each time you begin reading it.
 - a. “The name (or ‘title’) of the book is _____.”
 - b. “The book was written by (or ‘the author is’) _____.”
 - c. “The pictures were drawn (or ‘illustrated’) by _____.”

2. Teach reading from left to right.
 - a. After turning the page:
 - 1) Point to something on the left page.
 - 2) OR point to the first few words as you read them.
 - 3) When you begin reading the right hand page, do the same.

3. Whenever possible without interrupting the flow of the story:
 - a. Point to words that stand out in print.
Examples: **MOOOOOOO** 

 - b. Occasionally spell a word as you read:
For example: And Max said, ‘N-O, No!’

 - c. Find signs in the illustrations.  
Point to letters and spell the words.

 - d. Occasionally, point and say what the punctuation mark is.
For example: Too much noise! Exclamation mark.
Are you my mother? Question mark.

4. FINALLY, *encourage your child to interrupt* and ask questions, such as what a word means, or to discuss the book, or to take over reading the story.
....AND HAVE FUN READING!