



ALL ABOUT SPEECH & LANGUAGE

5 EASY TIPS FOR GETTING IN MORE READING PRACTICE

1. Pick a specific time to read together every day! Set aside a designated time (i.e. after school, while waiting for siblings during extracurricular activities, before bedtime, etc.) to read together. This can include having your child read a book at their reading level out loud to you, you reading out loud to them (especially if the reading level is higher), or taking turns reading together. Make sure to talk about what you are reading about by asking a variety of –wh questions (who, what, when, where, why); this will also give you an indication if they are remembering what you are reading about! Bonus tip 1: you don't have to read for more than 10-15 minutes in order for this to be an effective reading strategy, plus who doesn't love some 1:1 time with their kids after a long day at work? Bonus tip 2: Have children point out sight words or other words that fall into reading rules (i.e. magic e, vowel teams) that they are learning/practicing while they read aloud.

2. Take it on the road! Have your child pack a reading bag or use the back pocket of the seats in your car to fill with books at their reading level and have them read out loud to you while driving in the car. This will help the time pass for them in a meaningful way other than watching DVDs or looking out the window! While you drive, you can talk about the books they are reading by engaging in asking questions. You can also play "I Spy" or other games where they can read out loud different signs they see out the window or sight words they find in road signs, billboards etc.!

3. Act it out! While your child reads with you, get a bunch of pretend play props and act the story out after you are done reading. This is a great way to incorporate story-retells and narratives in a fun, playful environment. For example, if you read *The Princess and the Pea*, have your daughter or son dress up as a prince/princess and stack a bunch of blankets and pillows on top of one another and put different objects underneath them to see if he/she can feel and guess what it is they are laying on! Bonus tip: use the words "first, next, last" to help with sequencing story events in the order they happened! This new way to approach reading and use his/her imagination might be an added excitement or motivation your child might need!

4. It's their turn! While participating in playing board games, doing a new craft activity, or making a meal together, write out a series of steps/directions and have your child read them out loud so everyone knows what to do next. Better yet, if they are reading at a higher reading level, have your child read out loud the actual game directions, instructions, or recipe to you. This is also a great way to identify/find sight words that are already in the various

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sentences. Whoever reads the directions or identifies the sight words, gets to take the first turn!

5. Get Moving! Sight Word and Other Word Practice: Any sight words or any words that fall into reading rules your children are practicing (i.e. magic e, vowel teams, blends) can easily be drilled in the context of game play such as: board games (i.e. read 5 words and then take a turn), bouncing balls or jumping on a trampoline, or having a scavenger hunt around the house. Sight word practice sometimes gets repetitive, so keep it fresh by inserting it into fun and motivating games!

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