Wee Learn

Wee Experts
(5 – 6 years):
10 Tips to Make Reading
Fun for Children

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Quality Licensed Home Child Care

Did you know that simply reading to your child is one of the best things you can do for his or her education? It's much more valuable than just as a bedtime sleep inducer! Reading aloud to children does the following:

- *Helps them hear language in new and different ways.*
- *Gives them a sense of story.*
- *Leads to better performance in reading, writing, listening, and other school subjects, according to researchers.*
- *Creates a bond between the reader and the child, facilitating a special memory association between reading and a happy experience.*
- *Turns many children into life-long readers. And a life-long reader is a life-long learner!*

10 tips to get the most out of your reading time:

1. Read every day, even if you only have a few minutes. This models that daily reading is an important part of each day. Children also love a pleasant routine. They will look forward to this special time.
2. Create a cozy place to read together. It can be a special chair, or even a pile of pillows.
3. Let your child help you choose what book to read. This will help you keep the child's interest, and it makes him feel important. Visiting a library regularly makes choosing books easy and fun.
4. Talk about the cover. Have your child guess what the book is about. Who are the characters? What is the title? Who is the author? Have you read books by this author before? Have you seen this illustrator before?
5. Change your voice to go with the characters and the action. Make sure you don't read too quickly, too. You don't want to sound like you're rushing to finish.
6. Show the pictures as you read. Not only do the pictures help a child understand and connect to the book, the illustrations often add humour and whimsy to fiction.
7. After you read the book, talk about the story.
8. Try to make connections to something in the story and your life or the child's life.
9. Be sure to prompt your child to critique the book. Ask questions such as; What did you like? What did you dislike? What made you laugh? What did you learn?
10. Vary the genres that you read.

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