



# Reading to Build Brains



The back-and-forth conversations and interactions that happen when you read together build a young child's brain. **Here's how to make everyday moments Brain Building moments, too!**



## Explore the book before reading it aloud.

- A** Look at the front cover.
- B** Talk about what you think is going to happen in the book.

## Pay attention to pictures.

Young children use the clues in pictures to help them understand, process, remember and retell stories as a foundation for learning to read. Do a "picture walk" and discuss what you see on each page. Look at the pictures and ask them to tell you what they think is taking place.

## Express yourself!

The excitement in your voice is an invitation to become part of the experience.

- A** Have an ongoing conversation about what is going on in the story.
- B** Ask and answer questions about what is happening in the book.
- C** Point out things on the page and encourage observations.
- D** Connect what happens in the book to your child's experiences.

## HAVE FUN TOGETHER!

- ★ **Choose books that match interests** – whether it's dinosaurs, trucks, puppies or princesses, they'll be more engaged.
- ★ **Relax!** If a child is wiggling or fidgeting, it doesn't mean they aren't listening. For some children, moving their bodies helps them to concentrate. It's okay if a child doesn't sit for a whole story.
- ★ **Be prepared to read the same book over and over again.** Memorizing stories can often be an early step to becoming a reader.

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