


Tips for Reading with Pre-schoolers

1. Establish a **ROUTINE** such as bedtime stories every night
 2. **SNUGGLE** up close together so your child can see your face and the book easily.
 3. **ENCOURAGE** your child to hold the book with you and turn pages gently.
 4. Watch and **WAIT** to see what your child likes on each page and go along with this, repeating and expanding their ideas.
 5. Describe what is happening. You do not have to stick with the text of the book. You can **DESCRIBE** what is happening in the pictures at a level your child will understand.
 6. **KEEP YOUR LANGUAGE CLEAR.** Use lots of interesting tones in your voice, stressing new words and phrases. This will help your child pay attention to the book.
 7. **ASK** questions that will focus your child and stretch his imagination, for example; 'I wonder what will happen next?' Wait for a response.
 8. **CHAT.** Talk that arises naturally from a story in a book should be encouraged. Relate the information on the page to your child's own experiences.
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- A black and white line drawing of a woman with short hair sitting on a couch, holding an open book and reading to a young child. The child is sitting next to her, looking at the book. The woman is wearing a patterned top and the child is wearing a simple shirt. The couch is simple and modern.



Parents Plus is an Irish charity that develops practical, evidence-based parenting and mental health programmes. We train professionals working with children and families to deliver the programmes in communities and clinical settings. Our programmes support families to communicate effectively, build satisfying relationships and overcome emotional and behavioural problems. Parents wishing to attend a Parents Plus course should contact their local services such as the local mental health service, primary care team, Family Resource Centre, school or Childcare Committee who may have more information. www.parentsplus.ie.