



Read and Discuss Stories



To earn this pin, read every day! Over the years, you and your child will share hundreds of books and make new stories together. Once you have reached 600 books, bring your log to the library and pick up your book pin.

1. Visit the library for any of our story time classes. We have programs for all ages, starting from birth! Check our online or printed newsletters for dates and times.
2. Give your child books as presents and read them together.
3. Talk to your child about the characters and story events in a book you have read together.
4. As you read a story together, ask your child questions like these: "What do you think is happening? How would you feel if that happened? What might happen next?" (prediction) "Would you ever do that? Did you think that would happen?"
5. Compare the story situations to your child's personal experiences. "Could you do that? Has that ever happened to you? Did we ever do that?" (Make connections to his life.)
6. Have your child tell you a story. Write it down for her and ask her to illustrate the story. Your child will learn that a story has a beginning, middle, and end. She will also learn that sounds make words and pictures go with words. In the end, you will have a wonderful keepsake that you can read to her over and over that is totally unique.
7. Try "reading" the pictures in the books you share with your child. As he gets older, your child will be able to "read" the pictures to you. This will help him with important observation and narrative skills.
8. Keep books easily accessible to your child, not tucked away on a high shelf. Have books in the toy box, on the diaper changing table, in the car, etc.
9. At bedtime, ask your child to make up a story before you read a favorite book. You can make one up too!
10. Let your child see you reading your own book so she knows you value reading too.
11. Make a book with your child about something specific like "My Favorite Playground." It doesn't have to be complicated. Even one piece of paper folded several times can be a book.
12. Take your child to the library and read a magazine from the Children's Area with him.
13. Play simple board games together to help your child practice taking turns.
14. Check out a short book on CD and listen to it in the car with your child. The Greenville County Library System has audio CDs with books in bags. Ask us about them!
15. Share the same books with your child, again and again. Repetition is good for her brain development.
16. Pick a favorite book from your childhood and share it with your child. Ask her what she thinks of the book and tell her why you love it so much.
17. Talk with your child about some of the events that happen in a story. Ask if what just happened might be real or if it is just imaginary.
18. Follow your child's interests when choosing books. Does he really like construction sites right now? Check out a few books from your library about construction vehicles.
19. Read together what interests your child! The nutrition facts on the milk box, newspapers, recipes, maps, and game instructions all make great reading material if your child is interested in them.
20. When you visit your library, let your child select books. Try both fiction and informational books and ask your librarian for recommendations based on your child's interests.
21. It can be fun to read books in different places in and around your home. Try reading Eric Carle's *The Very Lonely Firefly* in a dark room with a flashlight.