

Book Bag

Flip through the book before you read it with your child. Take note of anything that might be of special interest to your child or that you may want to highlight.

Choose a time to read where other distractions are at a minimum. If you read every day before bed reading becomes a wonderful habit.

Introduce the book, point out the author and illustrator's names.

Ask your child what they think the book might be about.

Trace your finger under the text as you read, this helps your child to understand that the words you are saying are the marks on the page.

As you read give your child time to really look at the pictures on each page.

Every few pages stop and ask your child what they think might happen next. "Jenny what do you think will happen after the caterpillar eats so many sweets?"

If your child has experienced something similar to what is happening in the book, or has some other connection to the story help your child make these connections. "Henry, do you remember making a snowman like the children in the book? Did your mittens get wet too?"

When you have finished reading ask your child what their favorite part of the book was.

Remember that a few questions and opportunities for predicting the story goes a long way. Too many interruptions can feel like it's quiz time instead of reading time. Find that balance and have fun!