

# Phonics fun: How to engage reading in the *early years*

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## \*\*IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER\*\*

- When a child has a **STRONG** foundational knowledge in their native language, they will be better prepared to learn a new one. All items we discuss today should be considered in the native language first. 😊

## Why is Phonics IMPORTANT?

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- Phonics is the relationship between letters and the sounds they make. \*Foundation of the Reading House!
- When children can decode (sound out words), they can learn to read and write.
- If they understand how to manipulate letter sounds to create and read words, they can learn other important skills such as comprehension

## The Importance of Time

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- Children are like cookies. Each one is different!
- Research often shows that students who enter kindergarten a year later are higher achieving. Girls, on average, begin to read before boys do.
- If we push children before they are developmentally ready, there can be long-lasting effects – particularly the risk of learning to hate reading.

## What can YOU do??

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- Children often learn by what they see. \*Imagine being outside and seeing a bunny rabbit. What do they do? Why? Encourage thinking!
- If you read daily, it sets a good example for your child
- Read TO your child, starting early and often
- Read WITH your child (they do picture walks, you read the story)
- Create stories together
- All your child to CHOOSE their interests, even if it isn't your favorite

## Ideas to TRY...

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- Set up a reading routine at home, such as bedtime
- Have your child decorate a reading corner at home
- Get your child a library card and visit often
- Bring stories to life by acting them out (painting, drawing, etc.)
- Reward the love of reading with a visit to the bookstore for a new book

## Reading Corner Ideas



- Have books available that range from easy to challenging.
- Use comfortable kids seating
- Ensure there is lots of light available (natural or artificial)
- Keep it as JUST a reading area – no video games, etc. should be in this spot.

## Websites Worth Visiting

- [www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org)
- [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)
- [www.pbskids.org](http://www.pbskids.org) (Between the Lions and WordWorld are two good ones, but there are MANY great ones to choose from.)
- <https://www.storylineonline.net/>
- <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home> (Also great resources for parents)

## Play Time!!

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- To start: Whole group activity (make a circle) of “continue the sound”
- In smaller groups, we can look at some easy games and discuss how to modify them to fit your own needs.