



HELLO PARENTS,

One of the greatest gifts you can give to your child is your time. Using that time to read together can create a special bond and inspire a love of reading. Shared reading is an opportunity for building a positive connection with your child, improve communication and relieve stress. Books can serve as a starting point for conversations with your child about new or difficult topics. In this newsletter, we provide activities that will enhance the shared reading experience for you and your child.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

BAA, BAA, BLACK SHEEP

MATERIALS:

- "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep" book

DIRECTIONS:

- Sit with your child. Start reading slowly and with expression.
- Add appropriate actions as you are reading:
 - Baa, baa, black sheep, have you any wool?
 - Yes, sir, yes, sir, three bags full! (Touch three of your child's fingers and count to three)
 - One for the master and one for the dame (Continue touching your child's fingers)
 - One for the little baby who lives down the lane (Tickle your child's hand)
- As you are reading, pay attention to your child's reactions; respond to what they are trying to say.

[Click here](#) for more ideas.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

CREATE BOOKS TOGETHER

MATERIALS:

- Magazines
- Scissors
- Glue
- Stapler
- Paper

DIRECTIONS:

- Browse through the magazines together and have your child choose some pictures.
- Cut the pictures out.
- Encourage your child to glue the pictures onto the paper.
- Ask your child questions about the pictures. For example: "What is happening in this picture?"
- Write your child's descriptions (even if it is just one word) under the pictures.
- When your child has created a few pages, staple them together to create a book.
- Read this handmade book often and engage your child in discussing details of the pictures.

[Click here](#) for more ideas.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

MY SPIDER WEB

MATERIALS:

- Hockey tape
- Scissors
- Magnetic letters

DIRECTIONS:

- Invite your child to read "The Very Busy Spider" by Eric Carle. You can borrow it from your local library or [click here](#) to read the book.
- Together, cut the hockey tape into pieces of different lengths.
- Ask your child to create a spider web by sticking the pieces of tape on the fridge. Your child can also make a spider using the tape.
- Add magnetic letters for your child to spell some words from the book. For example: web, spider, busy, etc.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

STORY TALK

MATERIALS:

- Story book

DIRECTIONS:

- Read a story book with your child.
- Read slowly and pause occasionally to reflect on the story. For example, ask your child: "I wonder what is going to happen next?" or "Do you know what a palace is?"
- Listen attentively when your child speaks and shares ideas.
- Ask your child if they liked the ending. Then, suggest a twist in a story that would lead to a different ending. Encourage your child to think of how the plot would evolve.

[Click here](#) for more ideas.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

BOOK CLUB

MATERIALS:

- Books

DIRECTIONS:

- Invite friends or family members to join your book club.
- Participants will take turns to choose books to read.
- Decide how often you will have club meetings. For example, every two weeks or once a month.
- When all participants meet together to discuss the book, ask questions:
 - What was your favourite part/character of the book?
 - What was your least favourite part/character in the book?
 - If you could give the book another title, what would it be?
 - Would you read another book by this author? Why or why not?
 - What is one thing you could ask the author?

[Click here](#) for more ideas.



A TIP FOR TODAY

- Be a role model: ensure that your child sees you reading for pleasure, be enthusiastic about books, and show interest in what your child is reading.
- Keep a wide selection of reading materials at home, and read together every day.
- Use your local library regularly and register your child for a library card.
- Make reading with your child interactive: allow yourselves to make comments, raise questions and wonder together.