

Read to your child. Every day!

"Then I check that the horses have enough straw just like Daddy does."

-From Just Like Daddy by Cat's Pajamas Books

- Reading out loud to your child, especially your 0-5 year old, develops kindergarten readiness, language development and longer attention spans. Research shows that reading to your children early positively impacts their future success in school and graduation!

"If you give a pig a pancake, she'll want some syrup to go with it. You'll give her some of your favorite maple syrup. She'll probably get all sticky, so she'll want to take a bath."

-From If You Give a Pig a Pancake by Laura Numeroff

- Reading together gives you time to laugh, have fun and bond with your children! Build 20 minutes of reading with your child into your daily routine, for example, after work or before bed. Let your child enjoy your voice and sit on your lap!

"If leaves were fish..."

-From If by Sarah Perry

- When reading with your child, ask who, what, when, where, why and how questions to younger learners, or open-ended questions to older children. Ask them to predict what will happen next. Pause and give them time to ask questions! If you don't know the answer, or the definition of a word, look it up together!

"But it never rained rain. It never snowed snow. And it never blew just wind. It rained things like soup and juice. It snowed mashed potatoes and green peas. And sometimes the wind blew in storms of hamburgers."

-From Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, by Judi Barrett

- Children imitate what they see their parents do and say, be a positive role model for your child by reading yourself, and by showing enthusiasm for learning. Bring a book to read together while you wait for appointments. Take your child to the library often, let them use their own library card to check out books and participate in story hour. Build a home library and create your own books with your child!

"Five little monkeys sittin' in a tree,

Teasing Mr. Alligator, saying,

"You can't catch me!"

(chomp)

-From Chants, Fingerplays & Stories by Bev Bos

- Even if you aren't a strong reader, talking with your child extends their understanding of language and the world! Ask them questions about their day, talk about your day, tell stories, and do rhymes and chants!