



TIPS Kindergarten

for parents of

Play with letters, words, and sounds! Having fun with language helps your child learn to crack the code of reading. The tips below offer some fun ways you can help your child become a happy and confident reader. Try a new tip each week. See what works best for your child.

u Say silly tongue twisters.

Sing songs, read rhyming books, and say silly tongue twisters. These help kids become sensitive to the sounds in words.

u Read it and experience it.

Connect what your child reads with what happens in life. If reading a book about animals, relate it to your last trip to the zoo. □

u Use your child's name.

Point out the link between letters and sounds. Say, "John, the word *jump* begins with the same sound as your name. *John, jump*. And they both begin with the same letter, J."

u Play with puppets.

Play language games with puppets. Have the puppet say, "My name is Mark. I like words that rhyme with my name. Does *park* rhyme with *Mark*? Does *ball* rhyme with *Mark*?"

u Trace and say letters.

Have your child use a finger to trace a letter while saying the letter's sound. Do this on paper, in sand, or on a plate of sugar.

u Let your child choose.

Even easy books are ok. Allowing your child to choose his or her own books builds confidence and independence.

u Play sound games.

Practice blending sounds into words. Ask "Can you guess what this word is? *m - o - p*." Hold each sound longer than normal. □

u Watch my lips.

This may feel odd at first, but ask your child to watch your lips and mouth while you speak. Have your child think about how his or her own lips and tongue move. Say, "Can you feel how your mouth moves the same way at the beginning of the words *mouse*, *mom*, and *man*?"

"Reading Rockets: Launching Young Readers" is a five-part television series on PBS. See www.pbs.org/launchingreaders for more information on how you can launch a child into a bright future with reading strategies that work.