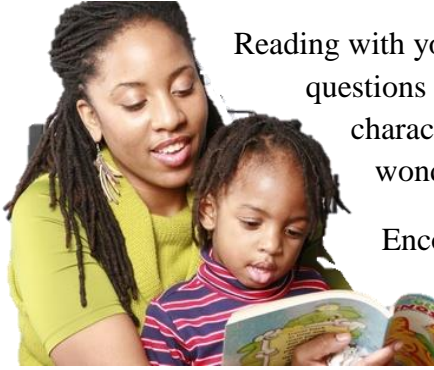


## How to Read With Your Student to Promote Language Skills



Reading with your child is a great way to reinforce language skills. Asking questions and encouraging your child to think about the plot, setting, and characters, as well as make predictions, inferences, and summaries, is a wonderful way to promote development of important language skills.

Encourage students to read aloud to you and “sound out” tricky words. For children who are not able to read on their own, read the book to them while tracing underneath the words with your finger so that he or she can follow along.

### Start with the cover of the book.

- Reinforce the concept that the author writes the book, and the illustrator draws the pictures.
  - “Who is the author of this story?” “Who is the illustrator?”
- Look at the picture on the cover.
  - “Who do you think will be the characters in this story?”
  - “Where do you think this story will take place?”
  - “What do you think the story will be about?” “What makes you think that?”
  - Encourage text-to-self and text-to-world connections. “Does the picture remind you of anything from your own life or from another story or television show?”

### Ask questions and make comments as you read.

- Pause and ask questions before turning the page.
  - “What do you think will happen next?”
  - “Why did [character] do that?” “How would you feel if you were [character]?”
- Draw attention to details in pictures and encourage your child’s curiosity and hypotheses.
  - Expand your child’s use of adjectives and descriptive language, “What words could you use to describe [character/setting]?”
  - “I wonder what [character] is up to...” “How does [character] feel?”

### Don’t stop just because you’ve reached the last page!

- Encourage predictions and inferences.
  - “If there was another book about [characters], what do you think would happen in it?”
  - “Can you think of another ending for this story?”
- Always ask the student to reflect on what he or she read.
  - “If you were [character] what would you have done in this situation?”
  - “Summarize what you read. What happened first?” Encourage use of transitional words when the student is retelling the story (Next, then, after that, last?)