

How do I assist my child in learning to read and write

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Children who come into contact with books at an early age have an advantage in learning to read and write. Immerse yourself with your child in the world of letters in a playful way.

- Children come daily into contact with writing - be it while shopping or on street signs and wrappings. They are curious and would like to learn, for instance, the names of unknown letters. Provide information when your child requests it.
- Pronounce the letters phonetically: "b" instead of "be", "f" instead of "ef".
- Show your child in everyday life what writing means to you personally. Write a shopping list together, read out recipes, write a letter, a card or an e-mail together.
- Take your child to the library and borrow books and other media together.
- Read to your child regularly - from an early age onwards.
- Set your child a good example by reading yourself (e. g. newspapers, books, digital media).
- Play together with the language: verses, rhymes and songs help to develop vocabulary.
- Reading is a demanding thinking process. Be patient and do not build up pressure. In the beginning, it is often easier you read in turn (first the adult reads, then the child).
- Talk to your child about what you have read.
- Choose reading matter that your child will find interesting. It could be bus schedules, adventure stories, picture books, comics or cookery books: anything goes.
- Make use of different media. Accompany your child as they discover books, audio stories, films and apps.
- Paint on paper, take photos together, design on a smartphone or a tablet.
- Be happy about your child's notes and letters and don't use a red pencil to look for mistakes. Reply to the note or even write back to your child.

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