TEACH READING AT HOME

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## **TEACH READING AT HOME**

by Monica Di Santi,Ma.

Little Children not only love to be with their parents but also admire them and want to be like them. So, any activity done together with a parent will be pleasing and stay deep in children's heart. Between the age of two and three, children work hard at speech development and by the age of three, most children can learn to read if they are instructed to do so, but they don't have to be forced.

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Little Children not only love to be with their parents but also admire them and want to be like them. So, any activity done together with a parent will be pleasing and stay deep in children's heart.

Between the age of two and three, children work hard at speech development and by the age of three, most children can learn to read if they are instructed to do so, but they don't have to be forced.

Therefore, it is good to stimulate them since they are toddlers and when they're three years old, try to instruct them in reading. If they refuse your offer, try again some months later but if they accept your invitation, start right away.

**Pre-reading Activities** 

- 1. Provide toddlers with cardboard books just to explore them as objects and get familiar with them.
- 2. Have a look at books together with your young children and ask them simple questions about the pictures.
- 3. Train their ears listening to recorded stories no matter whether they pay attention to them or not.
- 4. Read stories to them in a quiet place. As you read, follow the words with your finger so they'll learn we read from the top to the bottom of the page and from right to left.
- Memorize rhymes together.

Instruction

- 1. Write down isolated letters on colorful flashcards and read them as they sound in a given word. First, use words with short vowel sounds.
- 2. After children read the letter several times, ask them to draw it so they will reinforce the association of the sound with the graphic representation.
- 3. Use these letters to make the easiest spelled words like "map, pet or mop." Write them down in block letters and say each isolated sound first. Then, sound them out all together. This procedure really shows children how to read, how to join the sounds that make a word.
- 4. Practice several words this way and then, combine them into short phrases like "The fat man, the fat pig, the fat chick." Change one element at a time. Use "the big man, the fat man, the slim man."
- 5. Let children combine words and create their own phrases.
- 6. Make children match pictures with words or phrases.
- 7. Introduce books with few words and lots of attractive pictures. Use the same procedure. Present the new words on flashcards and make children practice the new sounds and words before reading the book. Read the book together and then, ask questions about the story and the pictures.
- 8. Hang signs at home like "bathroom, Jimmy's bedroom" and so on, to be regularly read. Make a poster with the rooms of the house or things needed to play baseball, etc., and ask children to match pictures with written words.
- 9. When you go out into the street, ask children to read signs to you.

Game: Go Fish

- 1. Use an old deck of cards.
- 2. Cut pieces of papers the size of the cards.
- 3. Write down the words already learnt. Some words can be repeated.
- 4. Paste the paper on the face of the playing cards.
- 5. Ask children to match pairs of words with the same short sound like "map and cat"; later, with a specific beginning or ending sounds like "pet and pin;" then, rhyming words like "tack and back."

Tips

- 1. If you have several children at home, work with one at a time. Children need an exclusive time to work at their pace and have mom or dad only for them. Once you're done with the lesson, they can join their brothers and sisters in a similar activity.
- 2. If you're determined to undergo this experience, teach children everyday, if possible at the same time. Continuity and repetition are important to achieve goals. Sections should be short, about 15 or 20 minutes, because children have a short attention span and they are full of energy.
- 3. Place bookshelves in their bedrooms so they can have books at hand.
- 4. Give children books as presents for Christmas and their birthday.
- 5. Once you have taught children some basic skills, play games to reinforce the knowledge.

NOTE: All these activities can be used to help children improve their reading skills.

Children learn much more and better if their own parents teach them. So, take advantage of this natural bond and turn the learning of reading into an unforgettable experience for your children.

BIO: Monica Di Santi is an ESL Teacher and Translator. She has a master degree in Linguistics.

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