



Book Dash Best Practice Reading Tips

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How do you read with your child?

- You don't have to be a good reader to read with your child: just do it!
- Choose the same time each day to read with your child (e.g. bedtime). Snuggle up close and enjoy the experience.
- Make it fun: use different voices and get your child to participate.
- Let your child be the leader, and you follow: talk about the pictures that interest your child and ask questions.
- It's never too early to start reading with a child, so you can read with your baby too.



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Why should you read with your child?

- Reading is a wonderful tool to help your young child's brain develop and get ready for school. Children who often read books with their parents perform well at school.
- Reading helps your child build strong relationships with you and their friends.
- A regular bedtime routine, including reading a book, helps children sleep better.



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Book Dash book-specific activities

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We know how important it is to play with young children and how we understand how parents/caregivers/family members can be involved. Over here we'll equip you with a few helpful tips for reading with a baby, toddler, or young child.

Through reading and playing, these activities will help the young children in your life develop thinking, social, language and physical skills as well as the feeling of security and happiness. It's never too early to read and play with your baby!

Babies love listening to your voice even before they understand your words. Reading aloud from birth builds skills and helps you build a loving, trusting relationship with your baby. Let your child take the lead: if a particular picture interests them, talk about it for as long as they want to. In this way they are active participants in the sharing of the book.

Generic questions and activities that can be adapted to any Book Dash book to encourage reading, playing, engagement and connection:

- Before starting to read and by just looking at the cover together, ask what your child thinks the story will be about.
- Identify the characters or objects, name them, count them, describe them: colour, texture, size.
- Ask questions to encourage them to talk about what they see. For example:
 - How are the characters in the story feeling?
 - How would you feel in the same situation?
 - What is happening on this page?
 - What do you think will happen next?
 - What time of the day do you think it is?
 - Can you do the same movement with your body as the characters?
- And you can add many more questions specifically related to the book you're reading to increase your child's engagement and enjoyment.

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Books for Bright Futures

Well done and thank you for
being part of the solution!

Wonderful people like you
help to give the children in
our communities the bright
futures they deserve!



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