

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ *The Magic School Bus Lost in the Solar System*

Ms. Frizzle blasts her class into the solar system for some out-of-this-world science lessons. One of the Magic School Bus series by Joanna Cole. (Also available in Spanish.)



■ *Doctor De Soto Goes to Africa*

In this tale by William Steig, the famous mouse dentist travels to



Africa. But before he can repair the tooth of Mudambo the elephant, an unhappy monkey kidnaps him!



■ *The Whingdingdilly*

Scamp is bored with his life as a dog. Then Zildy the witch changes him into a Whingdingdilly. Life is anything but boring now—but is Scamp happy? Read this story by Bill Peet to find out.

■ *Babushka's Doll*

"It wasn't that Natasha was a truly naughty child." So begins the story of a little girl who needs some practice learning patience. The lesson begins when Natasha picks up her grandmother's doll. A magical story by Patricia Polacco.



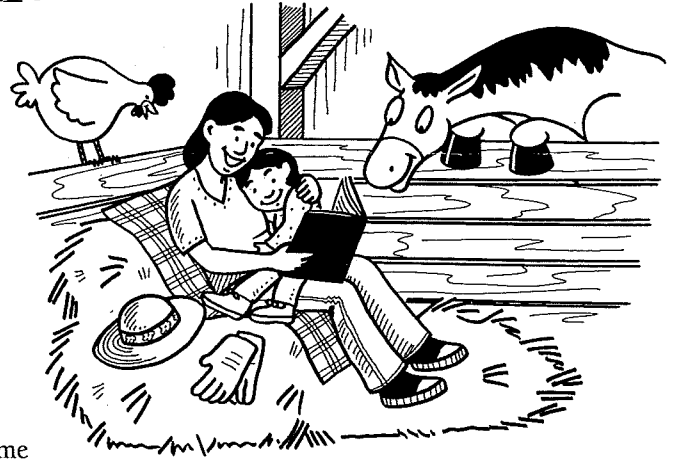
Story time

Want to spend time with your youngster, build her reading skills, and help her learn to love books? You can do all three when you read aloud to her. Here are some suggestions.

Read regularly. Try to read to your child every day. You might aim for 10–15 minutes of bedtime reading for a peaceful end to the day. Tuck read-alouds into the time when dinner is in the oven. Or curl up together with a book when you get home from work.

Take turns choosing books. Your youngster may want to hear old favorites again and again. Use your turn for new titles and variety (nonfiction, poetry).

Let her participate. Ask your child to turn the pages while you read. Also, she can finish sentences that rhyme or fill in words she knows. Go slowly so she has



time to understand the story and look at the illustrations. She'll enjoy read-aloud time more if she plays an active role.

Be playful. You can use different voices for different characters (a high, squeaky voice for a chicken or a deep, booming voice for a horse). Substitute your youngster's name for the main character's name, and use family members' names for other characters. *Note:* You don't have to be an expert reader—your child will love it when you read aloud because it's you. ♥

A language-rich home

Good news: Strong language skills can make your youngster a better reader, writer, and all-around student. Great news: You can build those skills just by talking to your child. Try these ideas:

- Narrate everyday activities like driving or cooking. Hearing unfamiliar words in conversation will help your youngster understand words in books ("Please hand me the *colander* so I can drain the spaghetti"). *Tip:* If he doesn't know the word, explain: "This is a colander. Water drains through the holes."
- Encourage your child to join family conversations. Ask him questions to help him expand on his answers. ("Why do you think so?" "What else happened?") He will learn to talk about events and give his opinions. ♥

