



Read

How can so much fun get my child ready for school?

Books, books, and more books! If there was one thing that would help children get ready for Kindergarten it might just be reading books with them. Reading starts with building children's vocabulary and language. Add pictures and a good conversation where you and your child can share your thoughts and feelings and you've got magic!

Try these at home!

- **Examine a book.** Let your child hold the book you're about to read to him. Show him how to turn the pages gently and from the middle so the pages don't tear. Ask about the title and the image on the cover. What does he think the book is about? Point out the start of the story, and later on ask how he thinks it will end. Talk about the author and illustrator of the book.
- **Set up a reading corner.** Even very young children enjoy handling a book. Start with board books (hard covers) which might be held upside down at first (it's really OK!). She may just look at the pictures, or pretend to read. She might read to her stuffed toys or imagine that she's the teacher in a classroom. Put a comfy pillow in any corner and a few books on a shelf or in a small box where she can see the choices.
- **Read books about Kindergarten.** Some books are about what happens in Kindergarten, and others show the mixed emotions of excitement and apprehension that children share about starting school. Check out the books below that are available in your library or at the book store.



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Things to say:

- **"What do you think happens next?"** Ask your child to make a prediction.
- **"Can you tell me about that?"** Open-ended questions may draw surprising responses about the story.
- **"You choose your bedtime story."** Children will have favorite stories that they want you to read over and over and over again. Give them their wish!

Read All About It:

Berenstain Bears Go to School, by Stan and Jan Berenstain. The Berenstain Bears are off to school and have many fun adventures.

Kindergarten Rocks!, by Katie Davis. Dexter knows all about Kindergarten. His big sister is there already.

Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!, by Nancy Carlson. A family prepares for Kindergarten. Henry is excited but also a bit nervous about the new experience.



Illustrations by Corey Smigliani

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