12 great tips for reading with your kids.

1. **Make reading part of every day.**
   Read at naptime, bedtime, before or after meals, while you wait at the doctor's or dentist's office—you name it.

2. **Have fun!**
   Choose books that are fun for your child and you, and then enjoy the time you spend together.

3. **Every minute counts.**
   Young children can sit still for a short story or two. But read to them now and as they grow, and their attention spans will expand, too.

4. **Show your child the cover.**
   Look at the picture on the front cover and talk together about who or what the story might be about.

5. **Talk about the pictures.**
   Don't always read a book word for word. Sometimes it's fun to just talk about what's happening in the illustrations.

6. **Get your child involved.**
   Babies can help to turn board book pages; toddlers can point to and name objects and characters; your big kids can do all this and more.

7. **Point to the words.**
   Sometimes it's fun to run your finger under the words as you read. An older child especially may begin to recognize repeated words.

8. **Skip a word.**
   Let your child fill in a word of a favorite book or one that uses repetitive language. Stop reading before the last word in a sentence to let your child fill in the blank. He or she may surprise you.

9. **Make the story come alive.**
   Create voices for characters, use your body to tell the story, vary the speed and volume of your voice. Let loose. Your child will love your antics.

10. **Ask your child questions.**
    Your child is a little sponge. Ask her, "What is that?" or "What do you think will happen next?"

11. **Let your child ask questions.**
    Use the story as an opportunity to talk about activities and objects related to the story.

12. **Encourage your child to tell you the story.**
    A child as young as three years old can memorize a story and tell it to others, welcoming the opportunity to express their creativity.

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