



Be My Helper



Learn the Tip

1. **Hold the book for me:** Start by talking about how we hold a book—with the front cover facing us. Show your child how to turn the pages. Then close the book, hand it to your child and let them try.
2. **Help me point to the words:** Ask your child to slide their finger across the page from left to right as you read. Be sure they are moving from the top to the bottom of the page. Eventually they can point to words as you say them.
3. **Show me a letter and show me a word:** Ask your child to circle, with their finger, a letter (like the letter “s”). Once they can do that easily, explain that letters work together to make words. As an example, find a word in the book, and circle the full word with your finger. Ask your child to try it!

Why this tip?

Learning the *concepts of print* means that your child understands how to handle a book and how the words on the page work. This may take a while to learn but don't worry. With practice, your child will get it!



Ask Your Child

- Hold this book for me. Where is the front cover?
- Can you turn the page for me?
- Where do we put our eyes to start reading this page?
- Can you follow along with your finger?
- When I end this line, where do my eyes go next?
- Do you see this letter? It is the letter “t.” Do you see any other t's on this page? Circle it with your finger.



Playfully Practice

Host a storytime for your child's favorite toys! Ask your child to gather two or three of their favorite toys. Place the toys so they are facing you as the audience. Tell the toys you're going to read a story to them, and your child is a special helper. Ask your child to hold the book and turn the pages as you read to the toys. If your child is ready, they can point to the words as you read the story. Give them a fun pointer—like a stick or an empty roll of paper towel.

