

Your child will ask you many questions about the world. As they begin organizing the information in their developing brains, it is a great time to show them that answers to their questions can be found in books.

Children love to be just like their parents, so the more often you show them how important reading is in your life, the more they will enjoy it too.



References:

1) Canadian Paediatric Society
https://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/healthy_sleep_for_your_baby_and_child

Look for other pamphlets in this series for more at-home tips to encourage your child to appreciate reading: **Reading for Pleasure and Learning to Read.**



The International School
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Reading At Home With Your Kindergarten-Aged Child:

Reading to Learn



How to encourage your child to ask questions:

- Ask questions to yourself or to your child: “How does this work?” “Why is it raining today?”
- When your child asks a question, praise them for their wondering.
- They will ask a lot of “why” questions; sometimes you won’t know the answer, just respond with “I don’t know that answer, but let’s find out together.”
- Pose questions to your child during play to help make connections to the real world. When playing with trains ask, “Why do people need trains?” or when reading a book, “Why is that character sad?” “What makes you sad?”



How to Read to Learn with your child:

- Visit the TIS Library. There are thousands of books about many different topics and the librarians will be happy to help you find books about the topic your child is interested in. You can borrow these books to read later at home.
- Let your child look through the book and tell you about the pictures they can see.
- Ask them questions about those pictures. “What do you already know about...?” “What do you want to know about...?”
- Read some of the words on the pages with their favorite pictures.
- As they show more interest in the pictures, keep reading more of the page.
- Show how you use the table of contents to find a page about their question.
- Keep encouraging them to ask more questions.
- Make connections between the books you’ve read, “This picture reminds me of this other book we read about...”
- Choose physical books whenever possible to limit the amount of screen time your child is exposed to everyday.
- Reading to Learn should not be the only reading you do; keep reading for pleasure every day too.

Some other tips to help support literacy at home with your kindergarten-aged child:

- Play turn-taking games. These types of games encourage your child to share and talk to their partners.
- Spend quality time with your child. Since young children learn their behaviors by watching adults, the more you use your phone; the more they will want to use it. So when eating dinner, reading, or playing with your child, reduce your screen time and talk with your child.
- Model good reading habits. Not only is it important for you to read with your child every day, it is important to show them that you love reading by reading for pleasure every day too.
- Get enough sleep. The Canadian Pediatric Society (1) recommends 10-13 hours a day of sleep for children aged 3-5 (that includes naps). Every child is different, and your child may need more or less, but in order to be alert and ready to learn at school, it is important for them to get enough sleep.