



MICHIGAN

# READING TIPS FOR YOUR FAMILY

**Try to find time every day to share books.**

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## WHY BOOKS?

The most important activity for building knowledge for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children.

## WHY NOW?

A child's brain undergoes an amazing period of development from birth to three — producing 700 new neural connections every second. And, 90% of a child's brain develops before age five.

### IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START!

Babies love to be held and to hear your voice. Cuddle up together and look at board books.

### A FEW MINUTES IS OKAY

Young children may sit still for only a few minutes. They will listen longer as they grow.

### LET YOUR CHILD TURN THE PAGES

Babies and toddlers need help to turn board book pages. A three-year-old likes to turn paper pages without help.

### READ FAVORITE STORIES OVER AND OVER

Children love to hear the same stories again and again. This is how they learn.

### ASK YOUR CHILD QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STORY

Where is the moon? What do you think will happen next? Be sure to give your child time to answer!

### MAKE THE STORY COME ALIVE

Read with fun and excitement in your voice. Try loud, or soft, or silly voices.

### TALK ABOUT THE PICTURES

Make up stories to go with the pictures. Let your child join in!

### READ ANYWHERE, ANYTIME

Read at playtime, bedtime and naptime. Read any place you have to wait. Read at the playground or under a tree, in the car or on the bus.

**When children are read to by people they love,  
children learn to love books and begin to thrive.**



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