



## HELLO PARENTS,

Lifelong readers find joy and excitement in reading. This process begins in early childhood, and the more children are engaged during reading, the greater the benefit to their language and reading development. You can help your child become more involved during reading by creating anticipation about the story, making predictions about what will happen in the story, connecting with the characters, and using enthusiasm and different voices while sharing a book. In this newsletter, you will find activities that will motivate your child to read.

## ACTIVITIES

### INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

#### GESTURES AND VOICE

##### MATERIALS:

- Board books

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Let your child choose a book and read it together.
- Use gestures while reading. For example, when there is a bird in the book, you can use hands to pretend it is a flying bird.
- Encourage your child to copy the gestures or make their own.
- Change your intonation and pitch to maintain your child's interest in the story.

[Click here](#) to read "Happy Baby Sad Baby" by Leslie Patricelli.

### TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

#### MY RAINBOW BOOKSHELF

##### MATERIALS:

- Books
- Small book shelf

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Ask your child to gather all their books.
- Arrange the books together according to colours of their spines. For example, group all red books together, etc.
- Encourage your child to pick one book from the bookshelf every day and read it together.
- When finished, help your child place the book back on the bookshelf according to the colour of its spine.

[Click here](#) to read "I Went Walking" by Sue Williams.

### PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

#### REPETITION AND RHYME

##### MATERIALS:

- Books with repetitive phrases. For example, "Three Little Pigs" by Bill Martin Jr.

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Choose a story with repetitive phrases and invite your child to read it together.
- When you reach the repetitive phrase, pause and let your child say it.
- As your child becomes more familiar with the story, pause and give them a chance to fill in other parts of the story as well.
- Encourage your child to read to you. They can use their own words to tell the story.

[Click here](#) to listen to "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" by Bill Martin Jr.

### JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

#### BRING STORIES TO LIFE

##### MATERIALS:

- Simple storybooks
- Various craft materials
- Dress-up clothes

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Ask your child to choose a story and read it together.
- After reading the story, encourage your child to make props representing characters, items or events from the story. They can also dress up as one of the characters.
- Encourage your child to act out the story using the props and dress-up clothes.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

### SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

#### READ AND DRAW

##### MATERIALS:

- Short stories
- Paper and markers or pencils

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Find a partner (a friend or a family member) to share your favourite short stories.
- Read a paragraph or an entire short story to your partner.
- When you finish reading, ask your partner to create 1 - 3 illustrations about the story.
- When finished, ask your partner to re-tell the story using their pictures.
- Now, ask your partner to read their story, which you will illustrate and re-tell.
- Share and compare your pictures with the stories you read to each other, and talk about what additional details can be added to the pictures.

[Click here](#) for more activities.



Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada

#### A TIP FOR TODAY

- Let your child select books to read.
- Involve your child in reading by asking them questions about the story.
- Pause during reading to reflect on what is happening in the story.
- Use gestures and voice variations to add excitement to the story.
- Try to connect the story with your child's prior knowledge and personal experiences.