let's talk! | Interactive Reading

Interactive reading is a way of reading that encourages the reader to do more than simply read printed text. When you read interactively, you can label objects and describe them, ask questions and relate the story to real life experiences so children and adults have a conversation together about the book. Children learn the most from books when they are actively involved.

Tips for Interactive Reading

- Read together every day
- Ask questions while reading
- Talk as much as you read
- Allow your child to act their age during reading (see tips by age)

Have fun while reading!!

Reading to Babies (birth-14 months):	
Learning words and book handling skill	
How do I read?	• Cradle baby in your arms or sit them on your lap and hold the book in a way that the baby can see. • Teach the baby how a book works by opening it, turning the pages, and closing it when you finish reading.
What books should I read?	• Books with no words that are made of strong cardboard with rounded corners. • Books with pictures that have big shapes in black and white (babies can't see colors until they are 2-3 months old). They need clear lines and big pictures too!
What does my baby learn?	• New words • What things are called (labeling) • How a book works

What's typical for my baby? Putting the book in their mouth, grabbing or throwing the book, wanting to stop reading or wanting to read only a little at a time. It's okay, you can try again later!

Reading to Toddlers (15 months -3 yrs.):

Playing with the sounds of language!

How do I read?	• Hold the child on your lap and have the child hold the book with your help. • Let the child open the pages themselves. • Ask your child lots of questions, and encourage him to ask you questions, too!
What books should I read?	• Books made of cardboard with bright colors and things to count. • Books with words that repeat the same letters, sounds, and words. • Rhyming books (especially in your home language).
What does my toddler learn?	• To play with the sounds of language • New vocabulary words • To have fun and enjoy reading!

What's typical for my toddler? Wanting to hear the same stories over and over again, making up their own words with lots of sounds, wanting a routine for reading – after dinner or before they go to bed and reading the first couple of pages and then not being interested. Keep trying!

Reading to Preschoolers (3-5 yrs.):

Active reading

How do I read?	• Have the child hold the book themselves. • Read interactively: ask your child questions about the story before you start reading, and while you're reading. Have them guess what is going to happen. • Have your child relate the book to their own life. *"Have you ever seen that animal?" "What's your favorite animal?"* • Have them tell you the story, using their words and ideas. They can act it out!
What books should I read?	• Books with colorful pictures. • Books that tell a story with words and books without words too, because these help the child use his imagination to tell a story!
What does my preschooler learn?	• New vocabulary and information about the world she lives in • To use her imagination • How print works: where to start reading a book, how to read words on a page, etc.

What's typical for my preschooler? Asking lots of questions while reading, telling her own stories about the pictures in the books and wanting to do it herself.