




It's Never Too Early to Teach Your Child by READING and TALKING to Them!

READING

- Read **EVERYTHING** with children: street and wall signs, box or can labels, shopping lists, and books. 
- Hold your children in your lap and **read together every day.**
 - Talk about the pictures.
 - Describe the colors, animals, and objects.
 - Count the legs, ears, or even spots on animals.
 - Look at the clothes people are wearing. Ask "Do you think it's cold or hot where they are?"
 - Use silly voices for different characters.
- Look for **emotions** on faces. Ask "How do you think the girl is feeling?"
 - Talk about your feelings and ask children to do the same.
 - Use the **photos on the back** of this sheet for a fun "How Are You Feeling?" game.

TALKING

- Children, even babies, need to **hear** language to learn to speak. **Talk about EVERYTHING** you're doing while you're doing it!"
 - "We're waiting for the bus. I wonder when it will get here?"
 - "We're going to the store. What should buy?"
 - "I know you like milk – let's get some milk."

Even before children can talk, they are **listening**, building their stockpile of words for when they are ready to speak.
Give them LOTS of words to choose from!
- Ask questions that encourage children to think and speak.
 - "What is that animal called? What is the squirrel doing?"
 - Make up stories while you're riding in the car or waiting in line.
 - Say, "Wow! There sure is a lot of traffic! I wonder where all these people are going?"
 - Encourage kids to ask questions or tell their own silly stories.



~ Remember ~

Children who are read to from an early age enter school **ready** to learn!

Reading with children builds their **vocabulary** – the **most important tool** when learning to read!

Children who are read to **before** they begin school are more likely to want to learn to read
– the **key predictor** in later **school success** and **graduation rate!**

Kids Who READ, Succeed!®

RHYME & SING

- Saying nursery rhymes and singing with children helps them **hear** the rhythm and flow of our language. It gets their ears “tuned in” to the sounds of speech.
- **SING with your children!** Don’t worry about knowing “baby” songs, just sing what you’re doing!

“Wash, wash, wash your hands! Scrubba, scrubba, scrub!”
can be sung to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”

Make it up as you go - your kids won’t know the difference!



I Have Many Feelings



happy



sad



angry



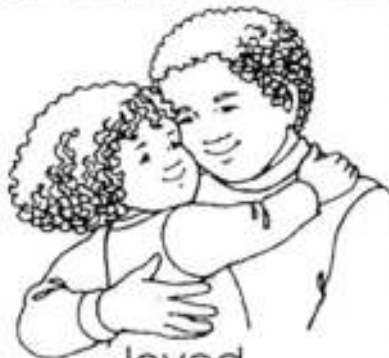
scared



excited



proud



loved



shy



hurt