

READING

Reading activities focus on four elements of language: reading, listening, writing and speaking. Anything that encourages these four elements can help build reading skills.

As you drive to and from summer activities, point to signs and ask your child to identify them.	Read a picture book aloud to your child.	Make it a habit to ask compare and contrast questions. (Which ice cream is darker? Is it warmer in the sun or shade?)	Create your own story books about your family going on an adventure.
Print an alphabet board and make a game of finding letters while out in the community, or make one using your child's name.	Encourage speaking by making puppets and telling a story.	Write letters to friends, family, and teachers. If your child is at a pre-writing or reading, provide sentence starters and two or more correct answers so they can choose what to say.	Practice sequencing by following a fun and simple recipe.
Visit StorylineOnline.net for some fun new books and stories.	Create a grocery shopping list using either words or pictures and task your child with helping find the items in the store.	Visit SpecialNeedsForSpecialKids.org and access a free library of activities and resources.	Encourage your child to order their own food at a restaurant. Prepare by accessing an online menu and role playing.
Choose a chapter book you loved at your child's age. Read it aloud to your child. If necessary, start with only a few minutes and build up to longer periods of time.	Read two versions of the same fairy tale. Encourage your student to compare and contrast the two stories.	Find a wordless book and ask your child to tell you the story they see. (Tuesday by Chris Van Allsburg is a favorite.)	Encourage early literacy skills by having your child hold the book, turn pages, and point to words as you read.
Use your child's favorite toys to retell stories. Encourage your child to participate as well.	Find books or stories with repeated phrases and have your child read the repeated phrase along with you.	Use shaving cream (or sugar free Cool Whip) on a baking tray as a fun alternative to paper. Draw letters or pictures using fingers, forks, or sticks.	If your child is already a strong reader, choose a book to read "together" then check in with weekly (or daily) book club sessions.