

# Preschoolers



Here are some ways you can help your child "get ready to read" during the ages of 4 and 5.

- I help my child hear and say the first sound in words (like "b" in boat), and notice when different words start with the same sound (like "boat" and "book").
- I help my child hear words that rhyme (like moose, goose, and caboose).
- I introduce new words to my child, like "bow" and "stern," which mean the front of a boat and the back of a boat.
- I talk with my child about the letters of the alphabet and notice them in books, like "c" for canoe.
- I point out signs and labels that have letters, like street signs and foods in the grocery store.
- I encourage my child to find the joy and fun in reading. Usually, I let my child choose the books we read.
- I let my child pretend to read parts of the book when we read together.
- I talk with my child about stories and make connections to things that happen in our own lives.
- I ask "what," "where," and "how" questions when I read with my child to help her follow along and understand the stories.
- I help my child write notes or make books (like an alphabet book), even if his writing only looks like scribbles or marks.



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