

Ready 2 Read Texting Program: All Texting Tips

General Notes:

1. Yellow highlighted messages are ones that go together in a pair
2. Green highlighted messages are ones that might be good for Storytime, or Books N' Babies

Text #	Text Message
0	YOU can help your child become a good reader! Where to begin? Talk to your child - a lot, everyday. TODAY, tell your child one of your dreams for the future.
1	TODAY, say a sentence with your child. You start, then stop midway to let your child say an ending. YOU: When you grow up, perhaps you will
2	Talking with your child throughout the day builds your child's language and communication skills. At bedtime, ASK: What was the best part of today? Why?
3	Your conversations with your child help your child learn. Conversations = taking turns talking and listening. TODAY, "converse" about your plans for the week.
4	Expand your child's vocabulary: Repeat something your child says, then add more words to DESCRIBE or EXPLAIN. Your child can learn new words from you today!
5	Listen, then talk, adding to what your child says. Your child says, Red truck broken. You repeat, then DESCRIBE the broken part or EXPLAIN how it can be fixed.
6	Storytelling builds your child's skill with words. TODAY, tell a short family story. SAY: Can you tell that story back to me? It's my turn to listen.
7	Invite your child to tell a story about a friend. Then ask a question that needs an answer of more than one word. The ? could begin with WHY or HOW.
8	Say: I WONDER WHY ___ seemed happy today. Wait for your child to respond, then listen closely. Doing this, you make your child a good thinker and communicator.
9	Every time you read a book with your child, you make it easier for your child to learn to read. Buy or borrow a book bag. Fill it w/ books from the library.
10	Take your bag of books everywhere you go. In the car, let your child "read" a picture from a favorite book. SAY: Tell me what you see. Then listen closely.
11	TODAY: Point to a printed word as you read it aloud. This helps your child connect the printed word with the spoken word - a big step in preparing to read!
12	When you "play" with word sounds, you prepare your child for reading success. TODAY, say your child's name, then add made-up rhyming words. Hi Fran-San-Pan!
13	4-year-olds love silly rhyming poems. TODAY, learn to say 1 together. Find it at your library or thru web search for "silly rhyming poems for preschoolers."
14	When your child hears rhymes, he gets language skills + fun! TODAY: Sing some silly song together. Need ideas? Search the web for "silly songs for kids."
15	Your child's ability to hear beginning sounds in words is an important milestone. Say SLOWLY: Sing some silly song. ASK: What beginning sound do we hear?
16	READ aloud, emphasizing the first sound in each word: Mindy mashed mushy mangoes. SAY: The same sound starts each word. I wonder what it is. Can you help me?
17	When your child hears the initial sound in a word, she builds important K skills. Tonight at bath, SAY slowly: soap suds. Did he hear the sound /s/?

18	You help your child master skills for K when you help her blend sounds into words. SAY: What animal names do you hear? bi - son. e - le - phant. ti - ger.
19	SLOWLY read aloud: Sa - tur - day. Sun - day. Then read fast. SAY to your child: How many words did you hear? What are they?
20	Blending sounds to make words is important to reading success! SAY: What words do you hear when I say p - ig? b - ig? d - ig? f - ig? z - ig?
21	Rhymes = language play = language learning! Finish with rhyming words: I see a bug on my rug, a cat in my ____, a fish in my ____, and a gar in my ____.
22	When your child hears the beginning sounds of words, she is headed for reading success. TODAY, clap on start sounds: N - ancy n - eeds n - ice n - eighbors.
23	Use rhymes and start sounds to help build reading skills & fun! SAY: I can make a rhyme, any old _____. D-ing, d-ong, d-ell, Wil-mer's in the _____.
24	When you point to letters & words, your child notices print-an important step to school success! TODAY, search for the 1st letter of his name on a food box.
25	Show your child that print has meaning. Print her name on a piece of paper. Then print 2 things she wants to do today. Let your child carry her list with her.
26	Noticing print everywhere & seeing that it has meaning motivates your child to learn letters and words. Read his "to-do" list with him several times today.
27	When your child sees YOU reading, she will want to read too! When you get library books for her, choose a couple for you. Let your child see YOU reading TODAY.
28	Each visit to the grocery, point to the printed names of 5 or more items. SAY: What do you think this word says? Connect printed & spoken word with each item.
29	Show your child that words are everywhere & reading has meaning. TONIGHT, read your own book while your child "reads" his. Then enjoy a fav book together.
30	Reading a book with your child every day is a joy. Start with the cover. SAY: What do you think this story is about? Point out title and author.
31	Show your child that we read words left to right on a page & top to bottom. TODAY, run your finger under a few words and lines as you read them to your child.
32	Understanding how books work is important to your child's future. TODAY, teach her to gently turn pages, and show that words and pictures tell the same story.
33	Reading books with your child ensures your child's reading success later. Visit your library twice a month. Remember your bookbag! Library=friend!
34	Mostly, let your child choose the books to read. Let him turn the pages and "read" the pictures. ASK him ?s that begin with WHY and HOW, needing long responses.
35	After reading, SAY: I wonder about . . . - something in the book. Listen, then comment, then listen again. Turn-taking is a very valuable communication skill.
36	Knowing letter names = K success. Write your child's name in capitals, say the letters' names, then SAY: Let's hunt for YOUR letters in your favorite book.
37	Write each letter in your child's name on small pieces of paper. Help your child arrange the letters, in order. ASK: who is this?? Shuffle letters & repeat.
38	Learning letter names now predicts a good reader later. Write alphabet on paper. SAY: Choose a letter. Then name & copy it on a card for him to carry in pocket.
39	Seeing you writing, your child will want to write too! Collect scrap paper, markers, pencils, crayons in a fun box. Encourage him to draw & "write" TODAY.
40	Ask your child to draw you a little story. Then have him tell the story. YOU write down part of what your child says, linking his story to your written words.

41	When you encourage your child's early attempts to draw and write, you give her a good start to success. 1st writing is squiggles and scribbles. Celebrate them!
42	Promote your child as an artist and writer! Help her select markers, pens & paper to put into a ziplock bag that goes in her bookbag - for her to use anywhere!
43	Show your child you admire his art work. SAY: I wonder if you could draw me a picture to take with me all day. And sign it w/ a letter or 2 of your name?
44	Help your child write a plan. SAY: Tell me something you're interested in doing today. I'll write the words you say. Then we can read them together.
45	Help your child learn that written words, like spoken words, connect people. SAY: Let's write a note to ___ today. You tell me what to write and sign YOUR name!
46	TODAY, find a letter or card written to your child. Read it again with your child. SAY: I wonder WHY ___ sent this to you. What do you think?
47	Notes are a special way to keep in touch with people we love. Print a 3-5 word note to your child. Fold it. Read it to her TONIGHT. Place it under her pillow.
48	Every new word your child hears from you prepares him for success in reading & life. TALK w him many times today. Your talk is rich in words new to him!
49	Your 4 yr old learns 3-5 new words every day, mostly from you. Today, DESCRIBE your kitchen, NOTICING & REPEATING 3 words new to her.
50	Words are important tools for a good life. Tonight, SAY: "Let's think of 3 new words you heard today!" GIVE your child the supreme gift of your words.
51	Today, PROMPT your child to "read" by linking spoken & written words. DRAW a hat. WRITE & SAY "hat." Then SAY, "I bet you can read this word to me!"
52	You + your child: DRAW a ball. COLOR it blue. WRITE and SAY "blue ball." Then SAY, "Which word is blue? Which is ball? We just read 2 words!"
53	Everyday, HELP your child make strong connections between spoken & written words. Today, READ 3 street signs together. TALK about why we have signs.
54	You add to your child's vocabulary as together you OBSERVE the world around you. LOOK out a car window. Take turns DESCRIBING what you see.
55	ASK your child to stand & name 3 things he sees. Then ASK him to lie down and name 3. SAY: "Which things are the same? Which are different?"
56	Observing the world & noting same & different = learning & meaning in our lives. TAKE a 1-min observation break w your child. TALK about all you see.
57	Books contain words your child doesn't hear every day. WRITE "library" on note, tape to car dash. ASK child to read the word while on way 2 your library!
58	ASK your librarian to help you find fun, creative books about shapes and colors. INVITE your child to help choose the books.
59	When your child learns words for shapes and colors, she gets ready for learning success! Which shapes and colors books does she like best? Why those?
60	To ease your child into K, HELP him learn 5 shapes-circle, square, triangle, rectangle, heart. Today, ASK him to pick 2. FIND them in book or your house!
61	DRAW a circle and square and LABEL w shapes' names. READ shape names to your child. Then SAY, "Could you point to each name as I read it?"
62	When your child knows basic shapes, she will be relaxed in K & eager to learn more! Today, DRAW, LABEL & READ together: triangle, rectangle & heart.
63	Your child's entry to K will be easier if you point out colors & color words every day. Today, FIND in closets & drawers: red, blue, green & yellow.

64	FIND more colors-anywhere! Purple, orange, pink, brown. WRITE color names on blank paper. SAY, "Let's draw a circle around colors we find in next 2 min."
65	When you help your child learn colors, you give him a big boost in K. Today: GO on a 30-second "color hunt." How many colors can your child find & name?
66	WATCH your child put together pieces of past learning to make more learning. DRAW & LABEL 5 shapes. POINT to shape names as your child reads them.
67	DRAW 3 shapes. ASK your child to color w different colors. LABEL w color & shape names. Example: "orange triangle." READ together. SAVE the shapes.
68	Find shapes & connect "layers of learning"! COVER part of a colored shape while you POINT to the color-shape words. Can your child guess/read the words?
69	4-5 yr olds need 10-11 hours sleep each night for learning ability & emotional stability tomorrow. Tonight, CHECK your child's # of sleep hours.
70	For your child to get enough sleep, SET & FOLLOW a regular bedtime routine. Before bed: SHARE a book together & TALK gently about the day.
71	Regular bedtime & routine leads 2 good sleep tonight, which leads 2 good mood & learning tomorrow. Tonight, SING a soft song as you turn off the light.
72	When you & your child play w word sounds, he is learning to read! SAY sounds of these letters - f, h, k - in this blank: __it. Example: f-it, fit.
73	The "it" word family is a large family! ASK your child what words she hears when you SAY these letter sounds - s, l, m - in the blank: __it.
74	Meet the "at" word family! What does your child hear when you SAY letter sounds for b, c, h, p before "at"? Example: b-at, bat.
75	Word families=fun way 4 your child to add new words to his word "bank." INTRODUCE the "an" family. SAY these letter sounds - c, p, t, v - before "an".
76	READ slowly this nonsense sentence, EMPHASIZING start sounds: D - an, the m - an, c - anned a v - an of p - an t - an! Then read fast.
77	On paper, WRITE 3 times: __an. ASK your child to help you think of 3 different beginning sounds for the 3 blankss - to make 3 words in the "an" family.
78	MAKE your child your special conversation partner. Today, TALK about Montana and Hawaii. NAME 3 ways they are alike & 3 ways they are different.
79	Today, SAY and WRITE your town's name. SAY: "Let's pretend we rule this town. What would we change? What would we keep the same?"
80	A child who knows a lot about the world is interested in life. DESCRIBE & COMPARE the jobs of 2 people you know. ASK: "Which job do you like best? Why?"
81	GROW your child's chances for success: Help him learn numbers & number words. PLACE 6 raisins in a row, then in a circle. COUNT raisins. Same number!
82	WRITE numbers 1-5 & number words one-five on separate scraps of paper. SCRAMBLE the 10 papers. Together, MATCH number w word. Mixing & matching fun!
83	Today: FOLLOW the previous message's directions for 6-10 & six-ten. Learning numbers and number words is esp. important 2 your child's future well-being.
84	PLAY w number & letter sounds. SAY: "When I count to five, listen for 2 words that begin with w letter sound of f?" WRITE & READ: f-our & 4, f-ive & 5.
85	SAY: "Listen for 2 words that begin with the letter sound s as we slowly count 1-7." EMPHASIZE the s sound in s-ix& s-even. WRITE: 6 and six, 7 & seven.
86	Connecting new learning w what your child already knows = a recipe for more learning. LISTEN together for 2 words that begin w t sound as you COUNT 1-10.

87	Knowing letter names & letter sounds makes learning to read easier & more fun. ABC books from your library = HUGE help. SELECT a few today!
88	ASK your child to choose 2 fav letters from A-K. Then HELP her find 2 words beginning w each chosen letter. SAY: "How many words did we find?"
89	ASK your child to choose 3 fav letters from L-Z. Then HELP him find 2 words beginning w each chosen letter. SAY: "In all, how many words did you find?"
90	Learning letters & letter sounds leads 2 reading 4 fun & learning tomorrow. HELP your child learn the alphabet. SING the ABC song today & every day.
91	Using Cheerios on table, u + your child "WRITE" a few beg. letters of his 1st name, with upper case for first letter, lower case for remaining letters.
92	Using raisins or Cheerios on table, u + your child "WRITE" her initials. Under her initials, WRITE yours. NAME the letters. SAY: "Any letters the same?"
93	When your child develops a special interest, BUILD learning on that interest! Today, SAY: "If you could learn a LOT about 1 thing, what would it be?"
94	Today, THINK of 1 way for your child to explore a NEW subject. READ a new book, VISIT a new place, LISTEN to new music, ASK friends about something new.
95	DISCOVER your child's interests. Today, THINK of 1 interest+how to strengthen/enlarge it. Being interested in a subject leads to joy in learning & life!
96	THX 4 participating in the Ready 2 Read Text pilot! Since this is a test program, your participation in a quick 5 question survey would be helpful.