|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Snuggle up | If you are able to, hold your baby in your lap while reading. This provides comfort and bonding for both parent and child. If unable to hold your baby, your child may enjoy gentle and comforting touch. |
| Picking a book | Picking board books or soft fabric books are infant friendly options. Books with bright, high-contrast pictures are appealing to an infant’s eyes and easy to see. It’s ok to read books repetitiously as they can be fun, engaging and easy to remember for the developing brain. Reading the newspaper, a magazine, or a book you enjoy to your baby is another great way to read to your child. |
| Make the story come alive | Change the sound and inflection of your voice. Use sounds effects for animals and motors. Use facial expression to convey emotions. Make up songs to go with the story. |
| Talk about the pictures | Expand on the pictures of the book. Point to objects and describe them. Allow the baby to make connections with the word and the picture. |
| Allow your infant to take the lead | If the infant wants to chew on the book or turn the pages before you are done reading, let them take the lead. Ask your infant (if age appropriate) to turn the page for you when reading. Engage the infant and allow them to explore their environment with other senses. |
| Increase the complexity of the book as they get older | Choosing books with more complexity and length as the child gets older can enhance interest in reading. |
| Read every day | Make time to read to your child every day. Reading contributes to the development of your child’s growing brain and language development. It promotes a lifelong love of readying. |

For more information and age specific tips for reading to your child, visit reachoutandread.org