



Families are
**Children's
First
Teachers**

When Reading with Your Preschooler

Learning Opportunities Include:

- Enjoying and listening to books
- Communicating with others
- Understanding print



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Find time to read to your child daily.

Reading experts agree that children who are read to by their family members become better readers.

Preschoolers benefit from reading books with you! As you read to your preschool child, talk with him (in your family's language). Ask him questions like "What do you think will happen next?" Answer his questions as he tries to figure out the story. Relate things in the story to your child's life. "Look, we have a dog just like the one in the book, don't we?" Predict, ask how he feels, how the characters in the book feel.

Perhaps you can find books in the language of your family or translate as you read. Try to be consistent to the story. Some families even record their translation of the book for their children to listen to again.

As you read newspapers, magazines, grocery store ads, and so on, share the experience with your child as well. Let him know that reading is part of your everyday lives! Show your child the print, running your finger under the words as you read them. Point out the letters in your child's name or a particular word like "dog." You may want to tell family stories to your child as you look at photos of relatives and pets. Following along with an interesting family story will help him become more interested in reading as well.

Preschoolers may choose some books that are favorites and ask you to read them again and again. Good! As your child hears the same story over and over, he is learning that print is consistent and always says the same thing. That's why you can't skip a page without your preschooler protesting! And, don't forget to laugh and giggle as you enjoy a book together.



Download the **"Families are Children's First Teachers"** materials and related documents at www.newmexicokids.org under the Caregivers & Educators tab.

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