

ReadAskChat®

for Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers

The ReadAskChat process is simple and fun: **Read, Read Again, Ask, and Chat.** ReadAskChat's on-demand conversation starters will help you get the most out of each session. Following are some general tips:

Choose a special time to ReadAskChat every day—maybe after dinner or just before bed. Your child will look forward to this special time with you.

Ask specific questions. Ask questions about the story, like: *Why is the Old Man living with birds in a tree?* The ReadAskChat conversation starters will get you started.

Encourage your child's imagination. You may be surprised at what you hear! **Enjoy the art.** Look closely at the pictures and chat about what you see. Make up your own stories about what is going on.

Have fun and be as silly as you like! Add sound effects, singing, acting out— whatever you like. Your child will learn that reading is fun!

Point and label. When you talk about something, point to it. Ask your child to point too: *Can you point to the dancing mouse?* This will help your child learn the meaning of new words.

Add ideas. Help grow your child's vocabulary. If your child says *doggie*, you could say *Yes! That's a brown doggie with long ears.*

Go back and look for new details. Children love hearing stories over and over again. ReadAskChat prompts help make every session a little different each time.

Connect the story to your child's own life. Ask *What would you do with a special leaf? How is Froggy's bath time like your bath time?*

Be patient. Your child's attention span will grow over time. If your child seems restless, try reading the next story.

Stay flexible. Don't worry about following the prompts exactly. The most important is to respond to your child's interests and curiosity.

Ease into the next level. ReadAskChat enables you to change level when you decide your child is ready. For a baby, you will be doing most of the talking, answering your own questions, and playing together. Your toddler can point out characters in the art, or add details to the stories you tell. As children grow older, they will want to tell their own stories and point out familiar words. They will absorb how reading works (e.g., reading from left to right) and will be eager to read on their own.

ReadAskChat with your child for at least 10–15 minutes each day!