

Help your child learn language: **TALK WHILE YOU READ!**

Family Literacy

The reading, writing, watching and talking that families do together

Lire/Imagine/Read – a literacy-promotion project at the Montreal Children’s Hospital (MCH) linking health and reading – is run through a partnership between the MCH and The Centre for Literacy. It is associated with the Social Pediatrics Program at the hospital.



For children 2-6 years old

Talking to children is a great way to teach them language. Reading to children is an important way to bring in new words and ideas.

Studies have shown that if you read and talk while looking at a book with your child, you can increase your child’s vocabulary and grammar. Doing this is called *Dialogic Reading*. Children like this better than regular book reading.

The more familiar your child is with a specific book, the more you can use dialogic reading. So read the same book over and over again until your child asks for another one.

How to do Dialogic Reading: Four easy ways to start

What do you need: A picture book

1 Get your child to talk about what is -happening on the page. Try one of the following actions:

Ask your child to tell you what’s happening in the picture: **“Tell me about this picture”**

Ask a question about something in the picture: **“Where did the boy go?”**

Ask your child to connect something from the book to something that has happened to him:

“Do you remember the time that you fell off the swing and landed in the mud?”

Point to a page and describe something that is happening, but do not finish the end of the sentence.

Let your child do that: **“Oh, look! The pig is stuck in the_____.”**

Ask your child to remember something about a book you have already read:

“Do you remember who helped him out?”

2

Say something about your child's response: **“That’s right.”**

3

Expand your child's response by repeating what he/she said and adding information:

Child: **“in the mud”**

Parent: **“Yes, he fell in the mud.”**

4

Repeat the expansion to make sure your child has learned from it:

“Poor him. He fell in the mud.”

More information on dialogic reading:

Dialogic Reading: An Effective Way to Read to Preschoolers, Whitehurst, Grover J. (Russ) (1992)

www.readingrockets.org/article/400

More information on LIR

<http://www.thechildren.com/en/patients/lire-imagine-read-project>



L’Hôpital de Montréal pour enfants
The Montreal Children’s Hospital
Centre universitaire de santé McGill
McGill University Health Centre

www.thechildren.com



The Centre for Literacy

Le centre d’alphabétisation

www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca