PARENT TIPS

SCREENS AND STORIES
Interactive e-books and other story apps are great choices for long trips—or simply when you’re on the go.

BOOKS ARE BRAIN BOOSTERS
The more you read to your child, the more prepared for school she’ll be. Also, there’s the pure, simple joy of cuddling up with a loved one and falling into the world of a story.

MAKE CONNECTIONS
Tie stories to your child’s experiences (“Oh, look, Elmo is dreaming of going into space. Have you ever dreamed of flying in the sky?”).

REPEAT, REPEAT, REPEAT!
Don’t be surprised if your child wants to hear the same story again and again. She’ll benefit in different ways from each reading!

BRING STORIES TO LIFE
When you read aloud to your child, act out scenes with body movements or sound effects. Simplify the language in any way that feels right, such as talking more slowly and repeatedly calling attention to certain words.

MY STORY
Invite your child to tell you stories she’s made up. Write them down (perhaps one sentence per page), staple pages together, and have her illustrate them. Then point out that she’s the author and illustrator of the book!
TALK ABOUT IT
Discuss stories after reading them. Ask your child, “What was your favorite part?” or “Can you think of another way the story might have ended?”

STRETCH!
Even when kids can read on their own, it’s still great for you to read aloud together. Choose stories on topics they’re interested in but with text above their reading level. This way, you stretch and expand their understanding—and jump-start their imaginations!

TAKE BREAKS
When reading with your child, stop to ask or answer any questions. Or, if your child gets fidgety, it’s okay to take a break!

WHAT’S INSIDE?
Together, look at a story’s cover before you begin reading it. Read the title aloud. Ask, “What do you see here? Can you tell what this story might be about?”

THE BENEFITS OF READING ALOUD
When you read aloud to your child, act out scenes with body movements or sound effects. Simplify the language in any way that feels right, such as talking more slowly and repeatedly calling attention to certain words.

MY DICTIONARY
In a notebook, keep a list of new words your child learns during your story-time sessions together.