Talk Together, Read Together

Reading Together

Talk as You Read: Point out ways that kids are like the characters in the book (“Look, he’s wearing a red shirt just like you.”). Older children can answer questions such as, “What do you think will happen next?”

Bring the Story to Life: Use different voices for each character or act out scenes with body movements or sound effects. Change the story to make it most appealing—for instance, speaking slowly in a sing-song voice to help engage a baby. No matter what, children benefit from sitting together and hearing their parent’s voice.

Talking Together

Name Your World: Mention the names for things children see, hear, smell, taste, and feel. Point to a window and say, I see a window. Touch a soft blanket together and say, The sweater feels soft. Children remember words best when they experience them.

Share Stories and Conversations: Even if babies can’t yet talk, you can still tell them stories. Adults can also have “conversations” with babies such as, Are you excited? Oh yes, you are kicking your legs and laughing, you must be excited.