

Tips from Mrs. Wolder on helping your child learn to love learning.

Create a quiet, distraction-free reading environment that has a special time and place for you and your child to read together on a regular basis. Choose a book appropriate to your child's reading level. Even if your child can read every word in the book, comprehension of the story is critical. Talk to your child's teacher to find out what your child's level of reading currently is. Start by reading aloud and modeling the strategies you use to comprehend. Discuss the story, helping your child connect his own experiences to events or characters in the book. Pause as you read and make predictions about what you think might happen next. What hints and information are available to help you make predictions. Read on together looking for confirmation of your prediction. It's not whether you're "right" or "wrong" about the prediction, it's the active thinking that cultivates critical thinking and reading. You can help your child develop other skills such as empathy and emotional intelligence by asking questions such as, "Why do you think the character did that?" "What seems to be the problem in the story?" "How do you think the problem will be solved?" With practice, your child will learn to ask these questions themselves and will become an active and critical reader.