



TIPS FOR READING WITH YOUR CHILD

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SPEECH AND LANGUAGE BENEFITS OF READING

Phonological Awareness

Auditory Processing

Vocabulary development

Labeling and Categorizing

Similarities and Differences

Understanding Affect

Identifying Emotions

Social Problem Solving

Temporal Processing/
Timing/Rhythm

Sequencing Events

Making Inferences

Language Comprehension
Visual Imagery

Reading is something we often do with our children. We want to encourage you to make reading an experience, and think of reading **“with”** your child, not just **“to”** them. There are many foundational developmental skills that can be addressed while reading.

CONSIDER VISION AND MOTOR:
Use reading as an opportunity to encourage the following skills

Visual skills:

- Visual attention: sustaining their gaze on the picture
- Visual perceptual skills: locating specific things within the picture
- Visual tracking: following your finger as you track the words you read
- Visual-motor: having their finger track the words as you read.

Fine motor skills:

- Isolating a pointer finger to point to image or specific words.
- Grasping edge of page to turn it
- Maintaining grasp while holding book

Bilateral coordination:

- Holding the book with two hands
- Crossing the midline while turning the page

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL BENEFITS TO READING:

Reading is an opportunity to create a feeling of safety and security, facilitating bonding. Enjoy these moments as your body provides them with postural stability. Use the affect, prosody and timing in your voice to facilitate self-regulation. Ask curiosity questions about how a character might be feeling or what they might be thinking. Use illustrations to draw attention to social cues and facial expressions.



identify. understand. empower.

Family Tree Therapies is a multi-disciplinary therapy clinic specializing in occupational and speech & language therapy. We help families **IDENTIFY** the underlying factors contributing to the concerns at hand, **UNDERSTAND** how these factors impact language, development, learning, play and friendships, and **EMPOWER** your family with tools and strategies for overcoming such factors.