



Building Blocks to Brighter Futures

Resources to Help Make Sure All Our Kids are "AOK"

The Importance of Reading

- 1. Make reading a part of every day!** Read at bedtime or on the bus.
- 2. Children who love books learn to read.**

Books can be part of special time with your child. Have fun!
- 3. A few minutes is OK.** Infants and young children can only sit for a few minutes for a story, but as they grow, they'll sit longer.
- 4. Talk about the pictures** You don't have to read the book to tell a story
- 5. Let your child turn the pages.** Babies need board books and help to turn pages, but your toddler might be able to do it alone.
- 6. Show your child the cover of the book.** Explain what the story is about.
- 7. Show your child the words.** Point with your finger at the words as you read them.
- 8. Make the story come alive.** Make up voices; use your body to tell the story.
- 9. Ask questions about the story.** What's going to happen next? What's that?
- 10. Let your child ask questions about the story.**



Children as young as toddlers can memorize parts of a story.

For more information, please visit the Kane County Health Department's website at kanehealth.com/aok.htm or call 630-208-3801



Distributed by:



Building Blocks to Brighter Futures

Resources to Help Make Sure All Our Kids are "AOK"

Reading Tips for Parents

Parents are the Key in helping their child to talk and to read. Use books to encourage talking and language.

Infants are learning to talk from the moment they are born, by listening to their parents voices and the sounds around them. Reading to them helps them learn by imitating sounds, gestures and then words and sentences.

Parents are the Bridge Between their Child and Talking

Looking at picture books is an excellent time to practice talking. Children learn that pictures stand for real things, and later that words stand for real things. Talking about the book encourages children to talk, to say and understand new words, and to learn better ways of saying things.

Here are 3 things to do with books to get your child talking

1. Make a comment about a picture and WAIT for your child to say something. Your child will tell you more about the picture. Waiting is the important, and hardest part. You can count silently to 5 so that you do not rush your child.
2. Ask Questions and WAIT. One word answer questions are good to start. Point to a picture and ask:
What is that?
What shape is that?
What color is that?
How many birds are there?
Later, ask questions that require more words, such as:
What are they doing?
What's happening?
What else does he do with a truck?
How can you tell that that is his shoe?
3. Repeat what you child says and ADD a little more. By responding and adding a little more, we teach children how to put sentences together. They begin to understand that Birds can fly; Dogs can run; Moving trucks have furniture put in them.



To Help You Remember

C – Comment and wait

A - Ask Questions and Wait

R – Respond by adding a little more