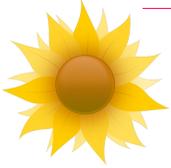


# Cook's Corner

April

## Fun Conversations Build Children's Reading Comprehension Skills



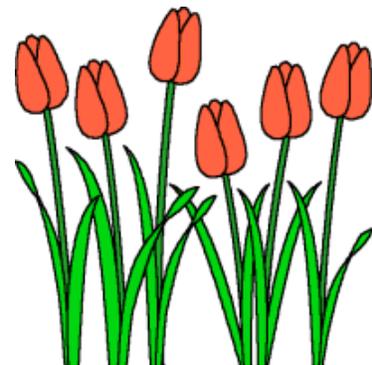
Imagine reading a passage without comprehending what it means. It would feel pointless! That's why it's important to make sure kids understand what they read and create visual images in their head. To help with this, talk with your child:

- 🌸 **Before he/she reads:** ask questions and build excitement. "Ooooh! That book looks good! What do you think will happen to the dragon on the cover?"
- 🌸 **While he/she reads:** help your child through challenging words or sections. "The picture has some clues about the paragraph." or, "Let's find that in the dictionary."
- 🌸 **After reading:** review what your child just read. Show that you're interested. "How did the story end?" or, "What were your favorite parts?"

## Parent Involvement is Strongly Connected to Reading Success

Research shows a strong link between parent involvement and kids' reading skills. Try these important reading related activities:

- 🌸 **Read Stories** with your child.
- 🌸 **Make reading time** pleasant.
- 🌸 **Help your child** practice reading and writing.
- 🌸 **Use unusual words** in conversation with your child, such as *document* or *highlight*.





## Take the Reluctance out of Your Reader

Is your budding bookworm trying to avoid reading these days? You can help him /her overcome their reading reluctance if you:

- 🌸 ***Think outside the book:*** There's no rule that says reading *HAS* to involve books. If your child doesn't feel like flipping pages, try an audio book instead.
- 🌸 ***Pause occasionally:*** While you are read, encourage your child to fill in the word. Preschoolers quickly learn to repeat words and phrases in their favorite books. This makes reading more fun and interactive.
- 🌸 ***Have a book-and-movie party:*** Together, select a book that has a movie. Read the book and discuss. Then watch the movie. Afterwards, compare and contrast the two and talk about which was better and why/why not.



## Create a Cozy Reading Spot!

Does your child have a special place to read at home? Designing a reading "nook" sends an important message:

### ***OUR FAMILY VALUES READING!***

Thankfully, you don't need a lot of space. Just include:

- 🌸 ***A selection of materials:*** You don't need a bookcase or bookshelf. A small basket or container is fine.
- 🌸 ***Comfortable seating:*** A bed, chair, or couch is great. A corner filled with pillows works well too. Teachers have a very limited amount of space and they manage to find any available nook or cranny that students can read in.
- 🌸 ***Good lighting:*** It's no fun to read in a dim area. And you don't want your child to strain their eyes or miss a word!

