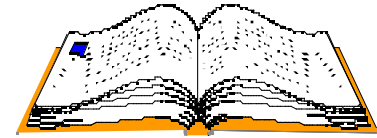


Don't just read; use this time to cuddle, joke and talk. Ask questions about the book you are reading.



Welcome to Reading Wizards, This is the first in a series of bulletins on reading to young children. The bulletins are for parents of developing readers. Each bulletin gives ideas on how to make the most of reading with your children. They also include fun activities based on Dr. Seuss books.



- Some children may find it hard to sit still and listen to a story. Start with 5 minutes and build up listening skills. You can also give them paper, pencils, and crayons. Let them color while they listen!
- If you have more than one child, read together as a family. Also read to each child by him/herself whenever you can.



As children learn to read, parents can help by reading out loud to them. Dr. Seuss's books are great for parents and children to read together. The words are simple and everyone will love the funny rhymes and pictures. Here are some tips on reading to your children:



- Read with your children every day. Do as much as you can, even if it's only 10 or 15 minutes.
- Make reading time with your child special. Chose a special place for the two of you to curl up with a book.

- When your child is young, read rhyming books. Dr. Seuss books are great to start with. Rhyming books help children to predict what is coming next in the book. This also helps them connect the letters on the page with the sound of the words.
- Visit your public library (get your child his or her own card). Spend time looking at the books. Let your child read pick out a book for you to read them at home that week.

Reading together is a great start. But don't let learning end when you close the book! There are many other ways you can encourage your kids' love of books. After you read a story, talk about the book with your children. Ask them what they liked about the story. Tell them what you liked. Here are some things to talk about after you've read Dr. Seuss's *If I Ran the Circus*:



- Ask your children what they would have in a circus of their own. Draw pictures of the kinds of animals and performers you would have in your circus. Ask questions such as, "Can you imagine animals even stranger than the ones in the Circus McGurkus?"



- Make your drawings of funny animals into puppets. You can make puppets out of stuff around the house. Paper bags and old socks work great. You can decorate them with fabric, yarn, glitter, buttons, or whatever you like!



- Morris McGurk daydreams about running his circus. Ask your children what they daydream about. What do they want to be when they grow up? Help your children to make their own book with a story about one of their dreams.

About Reading Wizards:

Reading Wizards is a series of bulletins on reading with children. Bulletins A through D are designed for parents of children as young as 2 years old and include activities based on Dr. Seuss books. Bulletins 1-6, based on the Harry Potter book series, were created for parents with children between the ages of 5 and 12. The bulletins will include tips on how to make the most of reading time with your children, as well as activities for you and your child to do together.

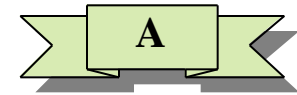
For more information contact: [Educator name, county] or Daniel F. Perkins, Ph.D., Associate Professor Family and Youth Resiliency and Policy.

Where trade names appear, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences is implied.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. It is the policy of the University to maintain an academic and work environment free of discrimination, including harassment. The Pennsylvania State University prohibits discrimination and harassment against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Discrimination or harassment against faculty, staff, or students will not be tolerated at The Pennsylvania State University. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 201 Willard Building, University Park, PA 16802-2801, Tel 814-865-4700/V, 814-863-1150/TTY.

© The Pennsylvania State University 2001



Reading Wizards



Open the Magic of Printed Materials

PENNSTATE

