

# THE *BORN READING* PLAYBOOK (visit [born-reading.com](http://born-reading.com) for more details)

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- 1. Read together.** Researchers call this co-play, sharing a book, app, eBook, audiobook, or any kind of literary experience. Don't let your kid spend too much time alone with a device. Make sure you play games and read together every single day.
- 2. Ask lots and lots of questions.** Questions are the foundation of interactive reading, and you can ask them even before your child can answer with words. Be sure to ask questions before, during, and after the reading experience.  
*(Where did the rabbit go? What color is the flower?)*
- 3. Share details about the book.** Point out your favorite illustrations, name the colors, animals, people, and feelings on the page. At first your child will not be able to join you, but he or she will pick up your interactive habit as they grow.  
*(That car is red—do you see anything red? Do you want to count the animals?)*
- 4. Dramatize the story.** You can mime sweeping when you see a broom or pretend to eat the character's food. This will help your child match the concepts to the words, a pillar of the interactive reading experience.  
*(Then the caterpillar ate one \_\_\_\_\_. Then he saw somebody—who is it?)*
- 5. Help your child identify with the characters.** Start by talking about simple emotions. These skills will scale as your kid gets older, when you can ask more complex questions. *(The bunny is sleepy—could you rub his head? Have you ever felt mad like that baby?)*
- 6. Compliment your child as you read.** Reward your child for simple responses, cuddle them after a reading session, and praise them for choosing good books or apps. *(I'm so glad you picked this book. Great job counting on the iPad!)*
- 7. Discuss personal opinions about a book.** If your kid loved a book, find out *why*. If they wiggled away while using a storybook app, find out *why*. Both questions will help you build a stronger reading relationship.  
*(Did that book make you happy? Why do you want to read that book again?)*
- 8. Follow the things your child loves.** If your child loved a book with panda bears, ask the librarian for more panda books. Read the books your child loves, use apps, videos, and online research to help him or her learn more.  
*(Do you want to read more about panda bears? Should we ask the librarian about this?)*
- 9. Stop and talk about what happened.** Too often adults speed through these books or apps to get to the end, but these pauses are crucial for your child's comprehension. *(Should we stop and look at this mountain? Should we take a break and talk about what happened?)*
- 10. Guess what happens next.** These questions will reinforce a sense of narrative and enhance reading comprehension. Kids' books are perfect for these questions, following easy patterns with fun exceptions. These questions can spark long conversations that continue into adulthood. I still play this game while watching movies. *(Who do you think will win the race? What do you think is in the box?)*
- 11. Continue the conversation.** Don't stop talking about a book or digital reading app after you've ended the reading experience. Reference the book in real life. *(Do you remember that book about porcupines?)*
- 12. Guide your child beyond what they already know.** Researchers call this "scaffolding" and it can be as simple as reading to your child because he or she does not know how to read. As often as possible, guide book reading into new material.  
*(Do you know why his car did not work? Should I tell you how he cooked the soup?)*
- 13. Show your child the world outside your neighborhood.** Make sure you choose books that explore diverse places, cultures, and stories, and follow your child's interests when he or she loves a setting. *(Do you want to know about Antarctica? Should I show you where France is?)*
- 14. Compare the story to personal experiences.** Help associate the book with the experiences that obsess your child. This is how human beings understand the world; applying something in a book or app to real life is a crucial skill.  
*(Did you see that kind of animal at the zoo? Did you get mad when we left the park too?)*
- 15. Encourage your child to recount the story.** For example, asking a child to tell one of his or her favorite stories over breakfast is the perfect way to reinforce a reading experience and teach storytelling. *(Can you read that book to your teddy bear? What happened after the elephant dropped his ice cream cone?)*