

Suggestions for Encouraging Participation in Shared Reading



Use visual props, large pictures, or other materials.

Allow children to bring a favorite toy or stuffed animal to story time to help them sit and attend.

For children who are learning to understand language and listen to stories, give them a copy of the book to hold.

Make sure children have access to a manual board or communication device at all times.

Have children take turns turning the book pages.

Have children who are learning to engage in book reading sit next to an adult or a more competent peer. Have a peer model the correct response.

Give children frequent praise and encouragement for sitting and listening.

With repeated readings, have the children help you finish telling the story or fill in words they know, particularly with repeated phrases.

Speak clearly and slowly and check for understanding often.

Use Braille, large print books, or big books for children who have visual impairments.

Have children repeat words or phrases.

Send familiar books and stories home with children.

Try a variety of seating options to help children stay focused.

Ensure all children have the opportunity multiple turns during the activity.

