

Take a look at more reading together out loud

Book Talk

The home visitor watches as Natalie's mom gets a handful of books and asks Natalie which book she would like to read. While they are deciding which one to read, the home visitor encourages Mom to spend time talking with Natalie about the books. They talk about what they think the story is about just by looking at the pictures. The home visitor asks Natalie, "What do you think the name of the little girl is?" and "What do you think is happening in this picture?" Natalie picks a book she wants to hear and the home visitor starts a shared reading session.



Sharing Bedtime Stories

Ira's dad wants to know how to make the most out of reading books with his 2-year-old as part of their bedtime routine. He decides to ask his home visitor for some ideas. They talk about how getting ready for bed, snuggling together, and asking Ira which book he would like to hear can become their nighttime routine. They talk about the importance of following Ira's lead and of following up on Ira's answers to questions with more, related questions. The home visitor reminds Ira's dad to ask lots of w- questions, like "What does the boy do next?" or "Was the boy happy?" When Ira's dad tries these suggestions, he realizes that his son is enjoying the activity because Ira wants to talk about the story.

Patience Pays in Shared Reading

Dexter has a disability that makes it hard for him to say what he wants to say quickly. The home visitor who works with him and his mom thought that shared book reading might be a fun way to help him. Since Dexter often carries his books around, the home visitor asked Dexter's mom to let him pick a book he would like to read. Dexter chooses to read a book Mom already knows he enjoys reading. The home visitor suggests that Dexter's mom ask him questions about the book he chooses. Mom asks Dexter, "What is this book about?" The home visitor reminds Dexter's mom to wait patiently for Dexter to say, "Big dog." She smiles broadly and says, "That's right! It is about a big dog." Dexter's mom points to a picture in the book and she follows this up with another question, "What is the dog doing?" Again she and the home visitor wait patiently for Dexter to give her an answer. As they read the story, the home visitor comments on how patient Dexter's mom is about letting him get his thoughts into words. She also tells Dexter's mom how helpful it is to prompt only if Dexter cannot find an answer.

